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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Keystone XL Oil Pipeline Project

PUBLIC COMMENT MEETINGS

4:30 p.m.,

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Teresa Hobgood and Michael Stewart,

presiding officers.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Hello and good afternoon. I
3 am Teresa Hobgood from the Department of State in
4 Washington, D.C. My colleague, Michael Stewart, and
5 I are here today to listen to your comments regarding
6 the national interest determination for the proposed
7 Keystone XL pipeline.

8 On behalf of the Department of State, we
9 would like to thank you for joining us at this public
10 meeting in Atkinson, Nebraska. We recognize that
11 this is an important issue and value your input. We
12 would like to express a very warm appreciation to Mr.
13 Bill McAllister, Superintendent of the West Holt
14 Public Schools for opening up his facilities, and for
15 hosting this meeting.

16 Can we all give him a round of applause.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: The purpose of this meeting
19 is for you, members of the public, whether you are a
20 teacher, a farmer or a scientist, to express your
21 views on whether issuing a Presidential Permit for
22 the proposed Keystone XL pipeline is in the national
23

1 interest.

2 To focus time and attention on your
3 comments, we will not be answering questions, at this
4 or the other public meetings that are taking place in
5 South Dakota, Kansas, Montana, Oklahoma, Texas and
6 Washington, D.C.

7 Before we begin, we would like to describe
8 the Department of State's role in the Presidential
9 Permitting process, and lay out the ground rules for
10 participating in this meeting.

11 With regard to the role of the Department
12 of State, in September of 2008, TransCanada Keystone
13 Pipeline, LP, filed an application for Presidential
14 Permit for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.
15 Executive Order 13337, signed on April 30, 2004,
16 delegates to the Department of State the authority to
17 issue a Presidential Permit for facilities such as
18 the Keystone LX pipeline that cross the U.S. border.

19 In considering a permit, the Department of
20 State determines whether allowing the border crossing
21 is in the U.S. national interest, taking into account
22 environmental and safety issues, as well as energy
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1 security, foreign policy, and social and economic
2 concerns.

3 In addition to the Executive Order, the
4 Department determined because of the importance of
5 the proposed pipeline, that it should evaluate the
6 pipeline's possible environmental and safety impacts
7 consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act
8 or NEPA.

9 As a consequence, the State Department
10 prepared an environmental impact statement or EIS
11 consistent with NEPA to evaluate the proposed
12 pipeline's potential environmental and safety
13 impacts. In preparing the EIS over the past two and
14 a half years, we have conducted some 41 public
15 meetings along the pipeline route, and in Washington,
16 D.C., to gather public comments in developing the
17 scope and draft of the EIS.

18 On August 26th, we released the final EIS,
19 which addresses the more than 250,000 comments from
20 the public comment period. The Final EIS is just one
21 factor considered in the review process. It does not
22 represent a final decision on the permit application.

23

1 Now, as we move into the national interest
2 determination, the Department of State is compiling
3 additional information to determine if the proposed
4 Keystone XL pipeline is in the national interest, and
5 decide whether to grant or deny the permit.

6 Now, turning to the ground rules. We hope
7 to have the opportunity to listen to everyone who
8 wishes to speak. And in order to allow the maximum
9 amount of participation, we ask you to limit your
10 comments to no more than three to five minutes. The
11 amount of time you will be allowed to comment will
12 depend on the number of people who have signed up to
13 share their points of view in the national interest
14 determination.

15 Given the strong interest in this issue,
16 it may not be possible for everyone who would like to
17 speak to do so. If you do not have that opportunity,
18 you can provide your written comments on the back of
19 the sheet of paper handed to you before you entered
20 the gym, or you can submit your comments via mail,
21 fax, e-mail or online.

22 The handout you received provides all of
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1 the instructions for the submission of written
2 comments. Written comments will be accepted through
3 October 9, 2011. With the exception of your elected
4 officials, speakers will make their comments on a
5 first come, first serve basis by assigned number.

6 If you have an even number, please line up
7 in the aisle on my left, and if you have an odd
8 number, please line up on my right. We ask that you
9 please be ready to speak into the microphone as soon
10 as your number is announced, and state your name and
11 any organization you are representing.

12 As you speak, you will be timed. Our goal
13 is to provide at least three minutes per person, but
14 it could be more or less depending on the number of
15 speakers we have. A card will be displayed when you
16 have two minutes remaining, then one minute remaining
17 and when your time is up.

18 We respectfully request that you finish
19 your remarks in the allotted time. Let me reiterate
20 that the Department of State officials are here to
21 listen. We will not be engaging in a question and
22 answer session. We understand there are strong views

1 on this critically important subject. You would not
2 be present if that were not the case.

3 We ask that in fairness to everyone
4 concerned, those who wish to speak be allowed to do
5 so without interruption. Please show respect to your
6 fellow speakers and to those who wish to hear the
7 heartfelt words of everyone. All oral and written
8 comments will be considered as part of our record of
9 decision, and will be reviewed by the Department of
10 State during the decision-making process.

11 All comments made here will be transcribed
12 by an official reporter. Again, we wish to stress
13 that the Department of State has not made a decision
14 on this matter. Thank you for your interest, and for
15 coming to this meeting.

16 We'd like to start the proceedings with
17 the elected officials who are present. We understand
18 that Senator Annette Dubois is here, and I apologize
19 if I mispronounced your name.

20 SENATOR DUBOIS: That's fine. I am
21 Nebraska State Senator Annette Dubois. And I am
22 first and foremost a farmer and rancher, but I

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1 represent Nance, Merrick, Hamilton and a portion of
2 Hall County, so that's south and east of here, about
3 120 miles.

4 I know I would like to echo the comments
5 that you just made. There are very strong feelings
6 on both sides of this issue, and those feelings are
7 also legitimate on both sides of the issue. So I
8 hope maybe today we can agree to disagree on many of
9 them, but yet still be respectful of other comments
10 that are going to be made.

11 I'd like to start out by saying I'm not
12 necessarily opposed to the pipeline. I'm certainly
13 not opposed to the jobs that it will create, or the
14 energy resources that it will provide.

15 But I am opposed to the route that it will
16 take through Nebraska's most sensitive ecological
17 area, the Sand Hills.

18 (Applause)

19 SENATOR DUBOIS: Last year I cosponsored
20 an interim study trying to find objective information
21 regarding the specific project and what, if any,
22 authority the State of Nebraska did possess.

23

1 Since the conclusion of that study, it has
2 become increasingly clear that states do have the
3 authority for siting and permitting of these federal
4 projects. The Tenth Amendment to the United States
5 Constitution states that powers not delegated to the
6 United States nor prohibited by the states are
7 reserved to the states respectively, or to the
8 people.

9 Federal Statute 49 USC Subsection 60104
10 states, "This chapter does not authorize the
11 Secretary of Transportation to prescribe the location
12 or the routing of a pipeline facility."

13 A congressional research memo further
14 clarifies that, and I quote, "The Federal Government
15 does not have siting authority for oil pipelines,
16 even interstate pipelines. In the absence of Federal
17 Government siting authority, state laws establish the
18 primary siting authority for oil pipelines, including
19 interstate oil pipelines."

20 Montana and South Dakota have statutes in
21 place that the Keystone XL pipeline project complied
22 with. Nebraska is not so fortunate to have those

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1 same protections.

2 I know there are many gray areas in this
3 complicated issue. During our study we posed a
4 series of questions to our state's water and soil
5 scientist experts. The Sand Hills and the underlying
6 aquifer has the amazing ability to transmit fluids at
7 a rate of 100,000 gallons per day per foot, according
8 to Dr. Ann Bleed, who's our former state hydrologist.

9 The eastward slope of this aquifer leads
10 to the drinking water wells of our state's two
11 largest cities. These characteristics have helped
12 our state become successful in many ventures, most
13 notably agriculture. But it also makes us very
14 vulnerable to contamination from any oil leak.

15 A consistent concern that was stated by
16 these scholars was the large degree of uncertainty as
17 to the impact of this project on the aquifer and the
18 Sand Hills vegetation. They are continually
19 conducting research on the Sand Hills and the aquifer
20 beneath this land to know and understand it better.

21 Several of these state water experts have
22 stated there is insufficient scientific research to

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1 accurately predict how leaking oil would behave in
2 water-saturated soils of the Sand Hills.

3 As I have listened to their presentations,
4 it is clear to me this understanding and research is
5 an ongoing process. Your EIS, as well as our
6 university professors agree, that any leaks would be
7 localized. To the federal government, that may
8 appear to minimize any potential damage. But if you
9 are in that locale, and your livelihood depends on
10 that water, the damage will be anything but minimal.

11 Several other Nebraska legislators are
12 working with me to call a special session and pass
13 siting legislation. That is why we are now asking
14 for time. We only want what other states have
15 already exercised and Keystone XL has followed.

16 Further concern over your approval of the
17 Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL project comes
18 from the lack of federal oversight for oil pipelines.
19 PHMSA, or the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
20 Administration, is charged with that particular
21 oversight. Recent reviews of PHMSA give me pause in
22 trusting them with our most precious natural
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1 resources.

2 A U.S. Department of Transportation review
3 of PHMSA disclosed serious deficiencies in how PHMSA
4 processes and oversees special permits and approvals.
5 They concluded PHMSA does not look at applicant
6 safety history when assessing their fitness for
7 approval.

8 Even worse, PHMSA does not consider it a
9 priority to complete risk-based oversight, including
10 investigations and inspections. And the DOT review
11 found all companies holding special permits were not
12 complying with the conditions of their permits.

13 According to federal reports, PHMSA is
14 chronically short of inspectors and lack the
15 resources needed to hire more, leaving too much of
16 the regulatory control in the hands of the pipeline
17 operators, themselves.

18 While PHMSA is really working to correct
19 these flaws, they have stated it will take many years
20 for that to happen, and much needed resources.

21 So I do thank you very much for taking the
22 time to come and hear the people of Nebraska, and I
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1 strongly urge you to give the utmost consideration to
2 the testimony, to these people who live and work on
3 this land, who are invested body, mind and soul, and
4 know it better than any analyst or scientist. These
5 are the true experts who have lived here for
6 generations.

7 (Applause)

8 SENATOR DUBOIS: They have experienced
9 firsthand the harsh realities as well as the great
10 blessings of caring for one of the most fragile
11 ecosystems in this world.

12 So in conclusion, I echo the points that
13 my colleagues, who spoke to you in length earlier
14 this week, about the need to deny the Presidential
15 Permit in order to give us time for reconsideration.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Now if we can hear from John
20 Sieler, the State Board of Education.

21 (Applause)

22 MR. SIELER: Thank you very much. My
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1 name's John Sieler and I serve as an elected member
2 of the Nebraska State Board of Education. I want to
3 thank you and the State Department for coming to
4 Atkinson, Nebraska, today. And I want to thank
5 everybody who came to speak or to listen to the
6 testimony. I think this is an important part and a
7 great show of our democracy in action.

8 I speak as an individual. I don't
9 represent the opinion of the Board, and we've not
10 taken a stand one way or the other. But I personally
11 am in favor of the current pipeline as it is
12 proposed, and I support it for two reasons: Energy
13 independence from Middle East oil, and for economic
14 growth.

15 This pipeline would create jobs in
16 Nebraska, approximately 7,500 in this state alone,
17 and in our nation about 120,000 jobs will be created
18 from this project. We'll have jobs during the
19 construction, and the jobs will continue after
20 construction. This will bring revenue into the state
21 from salaries paid to the workers, from property
22 rights.

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1 Other things, money will be spent for
2 motels, food, entertainment, and it will increase
3 Nebraska tax revenue during the project and also
4 after the project, probably about 11 million dollars
5 or more additional revenue to the state of Nebraska.

6 I encourage you to approve the Keystone XL
7 pipeline as currently proposed. Thank you.

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MS. HOBGOOD: I understand Senator Ken
11 Haar is here.

12 (Applause)

13 SENATOR HAAR: Thank you very much. Not
14 only for the opportunity of being able to speak, but
15 the opportunity to drive up here today. It was just
16 gorgeous.

17 I'm going to wear a hat given to me by one
18 of the experts that Senator Dubois talked about. His
19 name is Francis Henry, and he's been drilling water
20 wells in this area forever. The picture on here is a
21 little man standing beside a gusher of water, imagine
22 that.

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1 Well, everywhere I go in the state
2 farmers, ranchers, small business owners, average
3 citizens come up to me and say, you know what, we're
4 really apprehensive. We support the pipeline, but
5 why would we put it over the aquifer. This is a
6 quote from our governor in yesterday's Journal Star.
7 Another quote from our governor, and this is from
8 September 22nd, the Omaha World Herald. "I emphasize
9 very candidly and directly to TransCanada officials
10 that I supported a change in the route," Heineman
11 told reporters at a press conference, "I don't think
12 they're going to do that."

13 And then in another release from
14 September 1st in the Omaha World Herald he said,
15 "Deny their permit and change the route. It's a
16 route that could potentially contaminate our water
17 supply. We don't want to do that."

18 Well, I also have some quotes here,
19 Senator Johanns, U.S. Senator Johanns, "They've
20 picked the wrong route. I wish I could tell you that
21 manmade things never break, but they break. Why
22 would you want to dump oil into the aquifer?"
23

1 And U.S. Senator Ben Nelson, "State
2 officials need to protect the Ogallala Aquifer and
3 choose a different route. The current route puts the
4 Ogallala Aquifer at risk and lacks support in
5 Nebraska."

6 (Applause)

7 SENATOR HAAR: And then Senator
8 Fortenberry -- I'm sorry, Congressman Fortenberry had
9 similar comments. And then back in January, 21 state
10 senators signed a letter and it ends this way: "We
11 strongly agree with Senator Johanns in urging the
12 State Department to consider a route that avoids the
13 Sand Hills and minimizes exposure to the aquifer."

14 So I guess you could say some pretty
15 important Nebraska politicians think we ought to have
16 a different route. So my message to the State
17 Department is the majority of Nebraskans oppose the
18 pipeline going through the Sand Hills.

19 Now I want to speak to the people of
20 Nebraska. We have asked politely. We have asked
21 TransCanada to move the pipeline. We've asked the
22 State Department to delay or deny. And in a meeting

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1 I had with Under Secretary, Dr. Jones assured me that
2 the national interest does include state interest,
3 and that the decision has not been made. So now
4 what?

5 Okay, we have some options. One, we can
6 sit and wait for the U.S. State Department to act
7 hoping that State says no, and we have time next
8 session to pass a siting law. But, if the permit to
9 cross the border is approved and we have no siting
10 law in place, then TransCanada will float the
11 Keystone pipeline right through the Sand Hills and
12 take care of us when it leaks. That's a comforting
13 thought.

14 And by the way, just an aside, in the
15 State Department's own FEIS statement it says that
16 for 65 miles of the route through Nebraska, that the
17 water level is an average of ten feet or less. Ten
18 feet or less. Most of that is in the Sand Hills,
19 some of it's down by the Platte River.

20 So do you like Option 1? I don't. Or
21 Option 2. The legislature can step up to the plate
22 and enact a siting law before State Department acts.

23

1 And I think we prefer Option 2.

2 (Applause)

3 SENATOR HAAR: Do we have the authority;
4 yes we do. Senator Dubois covered that. Can we
5 wait; no we can't. We know that if we don't act
6 before the end of this year, the likelihood is that
7 the pipeline will go through the Sand Hills.

8 So the most important question at this
9 point is, does the legislature have the backbone, or
10 courage I guess is a better word, to act. Senator
11 Dubois has the courage. And the Senator Tyson Larson
12 from this area has said he will support a special
13 session. I want to thank him for that.

14 (Applause)

15 SENATOR HAAR: There will be a call for a
16 special session, and those results will be made
17 public. There's no ducking this issue.

18 So I want to ask you to call your state
19 senators and ask them to support the call, and thank
20 them if they are. Call your friends, tell them to do
21 the same. This is an historic moment for the
22 Nebraska Legislature to step up to protect the

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1 citizens of Nebraska, and Nebraska's most valuable
2 natural resource, which is water. Thank you very
3 much.

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Now can we have speaker
7 number one, speaker number one come to the
8 microphone. And if speaker number two can come to
9 the microphone as well.

10 DOUG SEA: I'm the president and training
11 director of Local 1140 in Omaha, Nebraska, where I
12 work and live.

13 I think you can think of me as a teacher
14 or principal, or an academic being or a career
15 counselor. I'm committed to teaching men and women
16 going through our apprenticeship program so they can
17 get work building your roads, your bridges, your
18 schools and more.

19 I'm proud of my students, which I call
20 apprentices. And I'm proud of the curriculum that we
21 have developed. My instructors and I have trained
22 hundreds of pipeline workers throughout the years.

23

1 The people in pipeline construction, and
2 right now they're -- the people I've trained in
3 pipeline construction are working all over the United
4 States. They're in great demand.

5 And other members of our labor union have
6 and will talk about the specifics of our training
7 program. But I as a training director, want to make
8 a special appeal to the State Department to recognize
9 the quality of the construction craft laborers that
10 we put into our work, and especially our work at the
11 training center in Omaha, and training centers across
12 the Midwest. I hope you will have the confidence in
13 our working men and women to approve this pipeline
14 and let them get back to work. Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker number two.

17 STERLING SCHULTZ: I am Sterling Schultz,
18 retired professional engineer, Naper, Nebraska, and
19 an elected board member of the Lower Niobrara Natural
20 Resources District. I am speaking today on behalf of
21 the Board.

22 Comment one. The Lower Niobrara Resources
23

1 District has been unanimously opposed to routing the
2 Keystone XL pipeline across the Nebraska Sand Hills
3 and underlying Ogallala Aquifer since the very
4 beginning of the public review process.

5 (Applause)

6 STERLING SCHULTZ: Protection of these two
7 natural resources is absolutely essential to
8 Nebraska's present and future agribusiness,
9 recreational pursuits, industrial and commercial
10 growth, and municipal and local drinking water
11 supplies.

12 There are pipeline routing alternatives
13 acceptable to us. SCS-8 and the Keystone Corridor
14 Alternatives 1 and 2. Detailed cost comparisons were
15 ignored, and simply estimated at a 25 percent cost
16 increase. DOS did not factor in the cost savings
17 from constructing the XL pipeline in or parallel to
18 the existing Keystone pipeline right-of-way.

19 Savings accrue from eliminating the
20 unknowns and surprises by building again in
21 previously studied and completed right-of-way; from
22 using the same emergency response plans, materials

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1 and personnel for both pipelines, savings from
2 colocating maintenance crew facilities, material
3 storage lots and sites for pumping stations and
4 storage tanks.

5 Across the states of Montana, North Dakota
6 and South Dakota the proposed route avoids crossing
7 Indian Reservations, wildlife refuges, federal lands,
8 and environmentally-sensitive areas.

9 In Nebraska, the TransCanada-proposed
10 pipeline route crosses areas that are very sensitive
11 to us; the Sand Hills and the Ogallala Aquifer. Why
12 did they cross these? If the proposed pipeline route
13 is not issued a Presidential Permit, TransCanada
14 threatens to cancel the project. So be it.

15 (Applause)

16 STERLING SCHULTZ: Another firm will build
17 a pipeline acceptable to us. In today's competition
18 for world oil markets, the Western Canada Sedimentary
19 Basin needs to move its vast supply of tar sands
20 crude oils to refineries where it can be processed.
21 PADD 3 in Texas is currently refining and exporting
22 those products now.

1 We, the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources
2 District, and our constituents are not against
3 building the XL pipeline. We object to where
4 TransCanada insists on constructing it. There is a
5 need for a pipeline to transport crude from Canada to
6 Texas, located where it doesn't threaten the natural
7 resources that support our Nebraska's economy.
8 Common sense should trump TransCanada's pipeline
9 construction and operating costs.

10 (Applause)

11 STERLING SCHULTZ: Comment two. It is a
12 surprise to see so many proponents for the project
13 that have been bused in here today. I am told even
14 from Illinois and other states. Each of you may be
15 out of work and looking for a job. We understand
16 your need to get back to work. Construction and
17 operation of the XL pipeline might just do that.

18 The fact of the matter though, is you will
19 go anywhere in Nebraska where TransCanada locates the
20 pipeline, and you'll go there to get the job you
21 want. On the other hand, we Nebraskans are stuck
22 with the consequences of a crude oil pipeline located

23

1 in the Sand Hills and Ogallala Aquifer. These
2 resources are absolutely critical to Nebraska's jobs
3 and economy now and in the future.

4 (Applause)

5 STERLING SCHULTZ: I would like to add my
6 third comment because it is a little different
7 approach, and I thank you for that.

8 We ask that before a Presidential Permit
9 is issued for Keystone XL pipeline, that it be
10 irrevocably linked to U.S. congressional legislation
11 that officially funds the Pipeline Hazardous Material
12 and Safety Administration to do its work
13 professionally, of insuring the safe and secure
14 movement of hazardous materials. The FEIS repeatedly
15 states the XL pipeline project will be constructed
16 and operated in accordance with all regulatory
17 requirements, including the 57 project-specific
18 special conditions developed by PHMSA.

19 TransCanada repeatedly agrees in the Final
20 EIS to comply with all rules and regulations.

21 Therefore, PHMSA must be adequately funded.

22 Performance records both for the Agency and for

23

1 private oil industry, have not always lived up to
2 expectations.

3 In closing, the Lower Niobrara Natural
4 Resources District serves the common interest of all
5 Nebraska, protecting life, protecting property,
6 protecting the future.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker number three.

10 JOHN MCCOLLISTER: Thank you for the
11 opportunity to speak. My name is John McCollister.
12 I'm the Executive Director of the Platte Institute.
13 We're a nonprofit, nonpartisan free market think
14 tank, and we promote individual responsibility,
15 limited government and free enterprise. And our
16 support of free enterprise is the reason I'm here in
17 support of the Keystone XL pipeline as proposed.

18 In an effort to secure America's energy
19 independence from foreign exports, there must be a
20 viable link for America to take advantage of growing
21 supply of Canadian oil. TransCanada has proposed a
22 1700-mile expansion to the Keystone pipeline already

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1 in operation as you know.

2 In addition to significantly reducing our
3 need to import oil from the Middle East, Nebraska
4 stands to reap significant economic benefits with
5 more than 150 million dollars in new tax revenues.
6 The State will have more funds available for
7 infrastructure projects such as road improvements,
8 expressways and schools.

9 Despite significant economic and energy
10 security benefits at the national and state level,
11 there are opponents of building a pipeline in
12 Nebraska. Unfortunately, many of the critics are
13 either misinformed or worse, intentionally
14 misinforming the public in order to advance a
15 political agenda.

16 To be clear, many critics of the
17 TransCanada XL pipeline are not opposed to the
18 pipeline or its route, they're actually opposed to
19 further development of Canadian crude as an American
20 energy source.

21 (Applause)

22 JOHN MCCOLLISTER: Nebraska's currently
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1 caught in the middle of an ideological fight. The
2 debate is not necessarily about the Keystone XL
3 pipeline, itself, but what it represents to various
4 political factions.

5 Consider which organizations are opposed
6 to the pipeline and funding the campaign against it.
7 Sierra Club, Audubon, Green Party, Nebraskans For
8 Peace, and Bold Nebraska. What these organizations
9 have in common is a desire to end America's
10 dependence on oil.

11 (Applause)

12 JOHN MCCOLLISTER: Special interests are
13 at the center of this debate, not the particulars of
14 the pipeline, oil sands or safety. The Green
15 movement is assembling against the Keystone XL
16 pipeline just as one more front in the war against
17 oil. Examples of their actions are staging sit-ins
18 and arrests outside the White House, which requires
19 the time and resources of law enforcement paid by the
20 taxpayers.

21 The proposed Keystone XL pipeline
22 incorporates new technology and the latest safety
23

1 procedures, which makes transporting oil through the
2 pipeline the safest and most energy-efficient choice.
3 Jobs, security and safety are important to
4 Nebraskans, which is why I ask you to support me in
5 supporting the construction of the Keystone XL
6 pipeline.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
9 four. And before you start, may I ask if you can
10 speak directly into the mic so that everyone can hear
11 you.

12 LLOYD KNOX: I'm Lloyd Knox. I was the
13 old petition carrier for property tax relief
14 amendment, and I am a rancher from Holt County. I
15 treasure our water real highly. We do not want the
16 pipeline to cross the Sand Hills of Nebraska. If our
17 government allows this to happen, they might take our
18 water also. No right-of-way, please. An oil leak is
19 dangerous to our water supply. I and many others
20 will donate money for a refinery in Canada just to
21 keep it out of --

22 (Applause)

23

1 LLOYD KNOX: -- Nebraska. Thank you.

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
3 five.

4 TOM GROSS: Hard act to follow. My name
5 is Tom Gross, I'm a special representative of
6 pipeline and gas distribution for United Association
7 of Journeymen, and Apprentices of Plumbing and
8 Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada.

9 Thank you for allowing me to address this
10 hearing. I represent 340,000 members of the United
11 Association, along with their families. The UA as my
12 organization is known, provides the highly-trained
13 craftsmen and women who build everything from homes,
14 schools, hospitals, to power plants, manufacturing
15 facilities. And our members will be constructing the
16 Keystone XL pipeline.

17 It is important to the United Association
18 that everyone understand that the security of our
19 environment is and will continue to be an important
20 concern to us. We are deeply committed to preserving
21 our air, water and natural resources for future
22 generations. We also know pipelines have already

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1 been shown to be the safest as well as the most
2 economically viable and environmentally secure way to
3 transport oil.

4 I have seen firsthand the construction of
5 pipelines throughout North America, and I can tell
6 you that when the UA is involved, you can rest
7 assured that we will build it with the utmost skill,
8 integrity and commitment to safety.

9 The UA spends more than 200 million
10 dollars a year in training our members to do this
11 work. The State Department is correct when it states
12 the Keystone XL pipeline will have minimal
13 environmental impact. The route has been carefully
14 prepared and rerouted to insure that the fragile
15 aquifers will not be disturbed.

16 This project will continue the tradition
17 of environmental integrity that UA and our signatory
18 contractors have demonstrated for many decades.
19 Keystone is the most scrutinized project in recent
20 memory. I can think of no project that has been
21 reviewed more thoroughly than this one. That's fine
22 with us because we know that this project will be

23

1 safe and environmentally sound. That's how we build
2 all of our pipelines.

3 Four of the most important questions
4 facing our nation today are: How can we create more
5 jobs? How can we increase our energy supply while
6 reducing our dependency on oil from the Middle East?
7 How can we further insure our national security? And
8 how can we do all this and still protect our
9 environment?

10 The TransCanada Keystone pipeline project
11 can help answer all three of those questions. So
12 perhaps another important question should follow:
13 How can we say no to a project that will go a very
14 long way in answering all these questions? The
15 reality is we cannot.

16 Creating jobs and enhancing energy
17 independence and proving [sic] national security, the
18 Keystone project will do all of this and more.
19 Please support this important project for all
20 Americans. Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
23

1 six.

2 CINDY MYERS: I'm Cindy Myers. I'm a
3 resident of Holt County. I've been anticipating this
4 day thinking that these words could be some of the
5 most important words of my life.

6 I truly believe this is the most pivotal
7 decision in the history of Nebraska. This decision
8 to be made by State Department officials miles away
9 in D.C. could very well transform Nebraska into a
10 devastating industrial wasteland. This is not the
11 legacy I want to leave future Nebraskans.

12 I want my descendants to enjoy the water I
13 am so blessed to drink, direct from the Ogallala
14 Aquifer. It's not filtered and it's not treated.
15 The Ogallala Aquifer waters saturate to within inches
16 of the surface throughout Southwest Holt County where
17 this pipeline will cross.

18 This is the most pristine water in our
19 country, but yet the most vulnerable to contamination
20 because of the high water table and the sandy soil.
21 Keystone XL pipeline will actually be completely
22 immersed in the aquifer waters in Holt County. Only
23

1 water-saturated sand will separate this toxic mix
2 from the deeper water that we drink.

3 The pipeline will not be crossing the
4 Ogallala Aquifer, it will be gushing through the
5 aquifer. It is not very comforting to me that
6 poisons such benzene, mercury, arsenic and lead are
7 separated from our water by a half inch of steel.

8 Pinhole. What a misleading term to
9 describe the very small leaks not detected by the
10 monitoring equipment that can actually spill several
11 barrels of this toxic mix into our drinking water
12 daily.

13 Dr. Stan Sperry, a UNL scientist, did an
14 independent study describing a plume of benzene
15 contamination 15 miles long in our groundwater posing
16 serious health risks to our people.

17 I spoke with Brad Vann, an environmental
18 scientist. He told me he would be concerned also if
19 he had a drinking water well downgradient from a
20 petroleum source, and he would want to know
21 specifically what safety protocols are being employed
22 to insure that a release has not occurred, such as

23

1 routine testing.

2 Because it only takes five parts per
3 billion of benzene in water to make it undrinkable.
4 You can't taste, see or smell it, and you can drink
5 it unknowingly. It requires lab analysis to detect
6 these minute amounts.

7 What provisions have you made for testing
8 our groundwater? The numerous real wells used for
9 people, livestock and irrigation are not monitored by
10 any public utilities entity. Who will bear the
11 financial burden for this testing? How can we safely
12 drink this water once the pipeline is in place?

13 The people of Holt County shouldn't have
14 to sacrifice their drinking water for some short-term
15 economic boost, or to provide jobs for people living
16 outside the area.

17 (Applause)

18 CINDY MYERS: A contamination plume in our
19 groundwater could very well destroy the livelihood
20 and jobs of several people living here. It seems the
21 idea of money is factoring in more heavily in this
22 momentous decision than concern for the health and

23

1 welfare of people. Shouldn't people be considered
2 the most valuable aspect of our environment?
3 Shouldn't the welfare of human beings be the primary
4 focus in an environmental impact statement?

5 Allowing poisons to infiltrate our
6 drinking water undetected, unmonitored, to me is a
7 crime against humanity. The idea that --

8 (Applause)

9 CINDY MYERS: The idea that this tar sands
10 oil gushing through the largest reservoir of
11 freshwater on our planet will pose little
12 environmental risk is absolutely ludicrous. The only
13 explanation to this absurd idea is the connection of
14 big oil money with the EIS, State Department and
15 other leaders.

16 (Applause)

17 CINDY MYERS: The actual water experts are
18 the people of Holt County. These are families who
19 have lived here for generations and they love their
20 land, and they love their water. We know the serious
21 risk and the permanent devastating consequences of
22 the spill into our groundwater.

23

1 We don't want to risk our water, land and
2 people for the sake of a foreign company's profits.
3 The Keystone XL is in the interest of governmental
4 officials influenced by big oil, and it's also in the
5 interest of a foreign company desperately wanting to
6 get this oil on the world market.

7 This is not in the national interest for
8 Americans, especially Americans living in Holt
9 County, where we value our number one resource, our
10 very priceless water. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker number seven.

13 RANDY MILLER: Yes, ma'am. My name is
14 Randy Miller. I kind of wish it was Randy Thompson,
15 but it's not. This is my first trip to Atkinson and
16 Holt County.

17 I'd like to say a couple of things. We've
18 been in these meetings across the country, through
19 this corridor. In my home state of Oklahoma this
20 pipeline will pass close to where my family's grazing
21 operation still exists. It will pass across the
22 lands of the Chickasaw, the Choctaw, the Osage, and
23

1 perhaps the Cherokee.

2 In Texas it will cross the Carrizo-Wilcox
3 Aquifer, an incredibly pristine and vital source of
4 water in Texas. There are people there that feel
5 like the folks here, they don't want it there. And
6 they're like the folks here, they're speaking out.
7 The same in my home state.

8 I am an environmentalist. I have been for
9 32 years. I'm here on behalf of and with Pipeliners
10 Local 798 and the UA, and specifically with respect
11 to Pipeliners Local 798, the welders and the
12 journeymen that will build this pipeline, weld it
13 together, and do their very best with their hands,
14 with their skills to build the best pipeline that
15 American labor can build.

16 They are here for jobs. To say they've
17 been bused in like cattle is an unpleasant and unkind
18 thing. These folks need something in Oklahoma
19 someday, and they may, they may not find that we
20 agree with them but we'll be courteous and respectful
21 to them when they voice their opinions.

22 Everybody's here for something, jobs and
23

1 the opportunity to work happen to be those things
2 that bring us to Atkinson today.

3 If I run one second over I want you to
4 please tell me.

5 One other thing before I leave this topic.
6 I had a chance after the meeting in Lincoln, to meet
7 Mr. Randy Thompson. I was curious who the -- you
8 know, I stand with Randy. I knew it wasn't me, but I
9 was wondering who it was, so I got a chance just to
10 say hello.

11 And those people that feel like yelling at
12 their guests or their out-of-town spokespeople,
13 people that are here to talk to the nation, feel like
14 yelling or booing or calling out names like liar, or
15 laughing, ask themselves, what would Mr. Thompson do
16 if he's their spokesman. I've met him, he's
17 impressive and I think everybody here should say,
18 what would he do if he were the one that felt like
19 treating the individuals here today like that.

20 Today when I drove in, the very first
21 thing I saw in Atkinson was an ethanol plant. An
22 ethanol plant sitting right outside of town, it's a
23

1 large one. Ethanol is trucked from Atkinson in Holt
2 County all the way to refineries certainly in Port
3 Arthur as well. There it is blended into fuel, and
4 it is brought back here.

5 I stopped our vehicle and filled it up at
6 a BP gas station. That ethanol comes back as a blend
7 in our fuels here. It is highly toxic in fuels. The
8 mixture of ethanol causes fuel to spread in the sand.
9 Thank you, sir.

10 So consequently, a community can embrace
11 things that it may not like. It may not fit
12 perfectly in how it sees itself, but it provides
13 jobs. There must be a lot of people that work with
14 that plant, that drive trucks that carry that
15 ethanol. But here it sits.

16 And the thing that I noticed, that really
17 caught my attention in the home of the West Holt
18 Huskies is that it said on the side of that plant, in
19 a big banner, "Fuel For The Future." And that's what
20 we're here talking about. We don't want -- listen,
21 the Sand Hill corridor for this pipeline is not
22 something one person here with these unions chose.

23

1 If it was moved or bent or curved, we understand.

2 It's coming through some of these folks' homes in
3 Texas and Oklahoma.

4 I understand, that's the discussion. For
5 us the issues are jobs, the environment, absolutely
6 the safety and stability of this nation. We have a
7 flag here that reminds us how precarious the lack of
8 fuel and the dependence on foreign countries can be.

9 So those are our issues, and the future is
10 the biggest issue of all. We believe that the jobs
11 are important, the environment is important. If this
12 gets moved, as somebody said, we will still build it.
13 We've looked at TransCanada's proposal.

14 We hired our own people to look into the
15 environmental aspects of it. We're not told what to
16 do. I don't know any TransCanadians, but I do know
17 the environment, and we believe that this can be
18 built in a way that's safe and sound. Compared to
19 all the uses of the Sand Hills, it will fit in and be
20 consistent with this community's needs. Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number

23

1 eight. Can you speak into the mic.

2 BUD PETTIGREW: Hello, thank you for
3 coming. My name is Bud Pettigrew and I'm the
4 Executive Director of the Minnechaduzza Foundation in
5 Valentine, Nebraska, the heart of the Sand Hills,
6 around 90 miles west of here. And before that, I was
7 a high school history teacher for 25 years, and I
8 taught in a variety of places throughout the state.

9 But when I got a chance to go back to my
10 home in Valentine to raise my boys in a place that's
11 unspoiled, pristine, and not much different than when
12 I was a kid, I jumped at that chance. I never
13 dreamed that I would face a threat from a foreign
14 corporation for the safety and security of myself, my
15 family, my friends and my neighbors. And I urge the
16 State Department to look into that situation
17 immediately.

18 (Applause)

19 BUD PETTIGREW: During the time that I was
20 a teacher, I was in a union all those years. And
21 during that time period, I found out that when
22 someone is more powerful than me, and more important

23

1 than me, they will make unbelievable promises that
2 are frankly unbelievable.

3 (Applause)

4 BUD PETTIGREW: So I urge the State
5 Department of the United States of America to fight
6 for America, to fight for all these patriots in red
7 shirts who came here because they believe that their
8 government will do what is right for them and not
9 what is right for foreigners.

10 (Applause)

11 BUD PETTIGREW: Because when these
12 foreigners leave and they take their money and our
13 health and our water with them, there's nothing left
14 for us.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
17 nine.

18 BERT FISHER: Thank you, madame. My name
19 is Bert Fisher, I'm a geologist and environmental
20 scientist. Just a little credential. I have a Ph.D.
21 in earth sciences from Case Western Reserve
22 University, and a bachelor's degree in geology and
23

1 geophysics from Yale University.

2 I'm a certified professional geologist
3 with the AIPG, and a registered professional
4 geoscientist in the state of Texas. I've had 38
5 years working in geology and environmental aspects
6 throughout, and the last 21 specifically working on
7 pollution matters.

8 I'm experienced with the oil and gas
9 industry, in working with legal matters as a
10 consultant, and in academia. I still am a research
11 associate at the University of Tulsa, and I sometimes
12 teach petroleum geology when they need me.

13 I have no association whatsoever with
14 TransCanada. And my clients include Native American
15 Tribes and citizen groups concerned about water
16 resources and pollution claims.

17 In this matter I was retained by
18 Pipeliners Local 798 to evaluate environmental
19 geoscience issues as they pertain to the Keystone XL
20 pipeline.

21 Three other qualifications. I live within
22 a mile of a very active refinery in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

23

1 I live in a state that is crisscrossed by pipelines.
2 I probably walk over one or two daily, and we
3 certainly are still an oil and gas-producing state.

4 In my review of this pipeline matter,
5 wherever it is built it will be safe. The best
6 technology will be used. Really significantly with
7 respect to pipelines, it'll be buried deeper than is
8 typically required of such lines. It'll be buried in
9 most instances 48 inches, four feet below the
10 surface, and it will be built by skilled and well-
11 trained workers.

12 The oil that this pipeline carries is
13 nothing new, although some say it is. It's very
14 similar in composition to California, Mexican or
15 Venezuelan heavy crudes, and that's with respect to
16 both its hydrocarbon constituency as well as the
17 metals that are carried in it.

18 More importantly, it's a very high
19 viscosity oil. It's going to have viscosity
20 somewhere in the neighborhood as blended like 40-
21 weight motor oil.

22 There was mention earlier that within the
23

1 aquifer, fluids can move hundreds of feet a day.

2 Really the specific statement would be water can move
3 that far every day. Oil will move, this oil will
4 move more than a hundred times more slowly simply
5 because of its viscosity.

6 There was mention of the pipeline being in
7 the water and sometimes water-saturated sands. That
8 actually is a good thing with respect to oil mobility
9 because oil has to displace the water to move. It's
10 a very hard thing to do.

11 The route. The current route crosses the
12 northeast corner of the Ogallala Aquifer, including
13 part of the Sand Hills. A release, while not a good
14 thing, simply cannot contaminate the entirety of the
15 aquifer because of the position of the pipeline and
16 the regional flow within the aquifer to the east and
17 to the south. Therefore, it does not threaten the
18 drinking water supply for two million people, nor the
19 ability of this aquifer to support agriculture
20 generally.

21 With respect to spills. Much has been
22 made of spills on the Keystone line, and there have

23

1 been 14 of them. They were all at pumping stations.
2 They didn't involve breaches of the pipe. Most of
3 them were quite small, some were less than five
4 gallons. All were contained.

5 The largest, which was 500 barrels, which
6 seems fairly large, is really just the inventory of
7 gasoline at a larger gas station and be held in
8 storage tanks. And by the way, all of those pump
9 stations were built by nonunion labor.

10 There was mention of no long plumes.
11 There was a mention of very long plumes, 15 miles
12 long. That simply can't happen with this oil. It
13 makes assumptions of the material being much more
14 like water, it's very hard to mix with water.

15 Hydrocarbon risk in the Ogallala Aquifer
16 is nothing new either. You accept it here every day.
17 There's something like in the Ogallala Aquifer
18 generally in Nebraska, there's about 17 million
19 gallons of gasoline, kerosene, jet fuel and other
20 hydrocarbon fuels in underground storage tanks which
21 we know do leak. And in the Sand Hills area of
22 Nebraska, there are roughly two million gallons of

1 hydrocarbon fuels in underground storage tanks.

2 The USGS in a significant study in 1997,
3 and then continued 2002 to 2004, didn't find any
4 significant contamination from hydrocarbons or really
5 much else in the Ogallala Aquifer. Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
8 ten.

9 CAP DIERKS: Good afternoon, and welcome
10 to Holt County, Nebraska. My name is Senator -- ex-
11 Senator Cap Dierks. I was a member of the
12 legislature for 20 years. And during that time I
13 don't think there was a year went by that we didn't
14 study or discuss water issues in our Natural
15 Resources Committee. It's just part of the business,
16 so we aren't exactly uneducated along those lines. I
17 think we know quite a bit about water movement and
18 how to protect our aquifers.

19 (Applause)

20 CAP DIERKS: I live in the greatest nation
21 in the world. The only known constitutional republic
22 that survived over 200 years.

23

1 (Applause)

2 CAP DIERKS: Why did those other
3 constitutional republics not survive? Because of
4 greed, greed on the part of the people who want
5 power, greed on the part of those who want money, and
6 greed on the part of those who want land.

7 We have by way of a Constitution, set up a
8 system in this country called capitalism. Capitalism
9 is what made this country great. I mean you might
10 compare this to socialism or communism, or Naziism,
11 capitalism is the thing that made this country great.
12 With a certain amount of difficulty among our
13 capitalists going the greed route, we could get in
14 trouble. And that's one of the things I want to
15 counsel about today.

16 I'm also a resident of the greatest state
17 in the nation.

18 (Applause)

19 CAP DIERKS: Some might argue with me
20 about that, but I've always felt that way. I've
21 never felt like there was any state in the nation
22 that served the citizens better than Nebraska. We

23

1 are at this point the most economically efficient
2 state in the nation. We're number one. I wonder why
3 that is. We have the greatest agricultural economy
4 in the nation, and the reason we have the greatest
5 agricultural economy in the nation is because we've
6 got that aquifer down there.

7 We're able to produce corn enough to feed
8 all the cattle we feed, plus have enough left over to
9 provide all the ethanol we need. And someone
10 mentioned a little bit ago about some of the toxins
11 in our water systems and our natural resources.

12 One of the reasons that the storage tanks
13 had difficulty is because they were storing gasoline
14 with MTBE in it. MTBE is methyltetroxylbutylic acid
15 [sic], and it's a carcinogen. That was why Congress
16 ordered us to find a different way of providing that
17 part of our gas. So we're using ethanol to do that.
18 Ethanol doesn't have the toxicity, as someone
19 mentioned a little bit ago. Ethanol can drop through
20 all the underground storage tanks, it won't bother a
21 thing.

22 I am also a graduate veterinarian from
23

1 Kansas State University in 1961, and I practiced
2 veterinary medicine here in this area for 40 years.
3 As a matter of fact I came to -- I was from Ewing,
4 Nebraska, but I came back because every Tuesday is
5 inspector of the Atkinson livestock market.

6 We have a problem in this country with
7 safety in our food animals, and we need to -- and
8 veterinarians are on the front line with this effort.

9 I wanted to add one more thing before I
10 quit, I see I got the minute sign. I'm also a
11 rancher. I am the fourth generation in a ranch that
12 was homesteaded by my great-grandfather in 1883. And
13 I've been managing this ranch for 46 years. I know
14 the value of water.

15 We have a flowing well that goes through a
16 creek -- flowing well that goes through our ranch, a
17 clear water creek, and we have two of these artesian
18 wells bubble out of the ground. The most pure water
19 you could ask for.

20 The temperature of that water is 56
21 degrees winter and summer. Ideal place to winter
22 cows. You don't have to chop ice for them. It's a

23

1 great situation. It is the cleanest, clearest water
2 that there is. I've had it tested time and time
3 again, it's absolutely 100 percent pure. There's not
4 one thing in it that hurts anybody. And I don't want
5 anything to be put in it that would hurt anybody.

6 (Applause)

7 CAP DIERKS: All Nebraskan citizens; all
8 Nebraskan citizens deserve the very best, and I urge
9 the State Department to ask that this pipeline be
10 routed around the aquifer. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
13 11.

14 JOHN BLASINGAME: Hello, and thank you for
15 coming to listen to all of us, okay? I'm John
16 Blasingame, a member of the Laborers International
17 Union of North America Local 1140 in Omaha. And of
18 course, as you can see I'm in favor of the pipeline.

19 I don't like the idea of a pipe leaking
20 out on our soil. I don't like the idea of another
21 Exxon Valdez or BP blowout. I don't like the idea of
22 millions of tons of agricultural chemicals being
23

1 sprayed out on our land. I don't like the idea of
2 our automobiles pumping tons of carbon into the
3 atmosphere.

4 But I'm also realistic enough to know that
5 unless we changed our ways profoundly, which I'm sure
6 we won't, we are wed to this society that we've
7 created in this part of North America. We will keep
8 on using fossil fuels. That's a given, unless we
9 want to stop driving cars.

10 That said, it makes much more sense to me
11 to get petroleum from a nearby friendly neighbor than
12 from a possibly very hostile society somewhere in the
13 Middle East.

14 (Applause)

15 JOHN BLASINGAME: This pipeline will also
16 be built with living wages, not a minimum wage. It
17 will provide jobs all the way from the Canadian
18 border to the Gulf of Mexico, jobs that people can
19 live on and make a house payments with, can pay a
20 mortgage payment, provide medical care for the whole
21 family, and pay into a very good pension fund by my
22 union.

23

1 I've heard several times people say well,
2 these are temporary jobs. Ladies and gentlemen, any
3 construction job is a temporary job. You finish the
4 pipeline and you're laid off. You finish the
5 building, you're laid off. You finish pouring the
6 street or highway, you're laid off. You go back to
7 the union hall, put your name on the out-of-work list
8 and wait for a job to come up. That's a given. And
9 we have contractors that we have contracts with that
10 we provide labor for. It's a situation that's gone
11 on ever since unions have been in this country.

12 Anyway, that said, I would propose that --
13 and I know that the Obama Administration is under
14 the gun to find more jobs, and here is a prime
15 opportunity. This will be a huge investment that
16 will generate a lot of tax money back into our local,
17 state and federal treasuries, and also create demands
18 for the goods and services that our businesses
19 provide.

20 I urge you to build this pipeline.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number

23

1 12.

2 TERI TAYLOR: Thank you to the State
3 Department for coming to the heartland of the nation
4 where an issue is deep in all of our hearts. My name
5 is Teri Taylor. I am a born and raised Nebraska Sand
6 Hills native, having lived here my entire life, and I
7 am here to respectfully tell you that the pipeline
8 running through this area of Nebraska is just wrong.

9 (Applause)

10 TERI TAYLOR: My credentials are few. I
11 am mostly a grandmother and a rancher. And for the
12 past three-plus years, I have been desperately
13 fighting for the very future of both of those things,
14 my grandchildren and the Sand Hills ranch.

15 My husband and I, along with our son and
16 his family, are ranchers in the Sand Hills. We
17 consider ourselves extremely fortunate as our ranch
18 is now the home to the sixth generation of Taylors.
19 Unfortunately, our ranch has been targeted as the
20 proposed site of the Keystone XL pipeline.

21 TransCanada is seeking permanent easement
22 from my family for 26,175 feet plus that equal amount

23

1 in temporary easements, or just over five miles. The
2 very idea of a 36-inch pipeline carrying tar sands
3 oil and coursing it's way through our Sand Hills
4 pastures, and through our subirrigated hay meadows is
5 the kind of things that nightmares are made of. And
6 I'm not being overly dramatic.

7 Having spent a lifetime on this land, I
8 know what the construction phase alone of this
9 pipeline will bring to this fragile Sand Hills land.
10 It will be devastating. If permission is granted for
11 this pipeline, in a few short months TransCanada will
12 succeed in destroying what it has taken my family and
13 the generations before us over 100 years to create, a
14 vast productive area capable of sustaining an active
15 cattle ranch that not only provides food for my
16 family, but provides beef to a large world market.

17 Over the past three years, the news of
18 this proposed pipeline has loomed over us. We have
19 run the gamut of emotions. A fair share I am
20 reluctant to say has been anger. Anger because a
21 foreign company can threaten us with eminent domain
22 if we choose not to freely turn our land over to
23

1 them. Angry because we have been forced to defend
2 our rights to our property, and angry because in a
3 nation so hungry for oil that it would choose to
4 ignore the dangers this pipeline presents.

5 There has also been bouts of fear as we
6 mentally picture the havoc that the construction of
7 this pipeline, if approved, will create for ours and
8 other like ours ranching operations. A sense of
9 sadness that the gentle rolling hills on our ranch
10 will carry a scar for eternity.

11 (Applause)

12 TERI TAYLOR: And sadness that the world's
13 largest aquifer, dating back millions of years, may
14 soon be home to a crude oil pipeline and an accident
15 waiting to happen.

16 I have heard the testimonies of the union
17 workers that speak of the need for jobs, and I by no
18 means criticize or condemn them. As a rancher, you
19 respect and admire anyone who is willing to do an
20 honest day's work. Make no mistake about it, there
21 is probably not one person here that doesn't pray
22 that the work performed on this pipeline, if it

23

1 materializes, isn't of the highest quality humanly
2 possible. After all, the entire future of my family
3 and families across the state of Nebraska will depend
4 on it.

5 It has often been said that there can be
6 good found in every situation, and I believe that.
7 And this particular one, it is the single voices have
8 become choirs and the word has spread across this
9 great nation of ours, and the voices are all in
10 harmony. The pipeline is not in the national
11 interest.

12 (Applause)

13 TERI TAYLOR: Perhaps the words of one of
14 our Founding Fathers of this great nation, Benjamin
15 Franklin, said it best. "When the well is dry we
16 know the worth of water." I pray it does not take
17 the contamination of all or merely a part of the
18 Ogallala Aquifer for us to realize the true worth of
19 water. Please deny this permit.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
22 13, and can you speak into the mic please.

23

1 DANNY HENDRIX: Yes, ma'am. That was
2 good, that was real good. My name is Danny Hendrix.
3 I'm the business manager of Pipeliners Local Union
4 798. I represent over 6800 members nationwide. It's
5 an organization composed of the most highly trained
6 pipeline constructors in the world. And we built the
7 original Keystone, and if this is permitted we'll
8 build the Keystone XL.

9 We believe if you're going to build it,
10 build it right. Where skilled laborers is used,
11 TransCanada's commitment to building the best
12 pipeline possible is assured. Build it but build it
13 right. Hopefully, before we leave here today, you
14 will understand the importance of this project not
15 only from a national security standpoint, but as a
16 common sense approach.

17 Local 798 members have had the privilege
18 to partner with TransCanada for the past three years
19 on construction of the original Keystone. That was
20 finished on time, underbudget and with full-time
21 compliance with all federal, state and environmental
22 laws. Build it but build it right.

23

1 You know, I heard I don't know if it was a
2 snicker or what in the background when I think
3 Dr. Fisher was talking about those stations that
4 leaked. There was some leaks, not on the pipeline,
5 they were on the stations. Those stations were not
6 constructed by skilled union craftsmen. That's a
7 matter of fact. We were called to come fix them
8 after the leaked.

9 Many of the remarks from opposition to the
10 Keystone XL or about the pipeline is what if, what
11 if. Local 798 as a group has been involved with many
12 mega projects such as the REX project that was almost
13 1700 miles, a 36 and 42-inch came right through
14 Ogallala Aquifer, came all the way across your state.
15 Goes right down through the heart of it.

16 The Alliance pipeline, that's 886 miles of
17 36-inch; the Vector, 348 miles of 42-inch; the Ruby
18 line, which is just finished is 680 miles of 42-inch;
19 and the Alaska pipeline, 800 miles of 48-inch. So
20 we're very familiar about how to build pipeline.
21 We're very good at it.

22 (Applause)

23

1 DANNY HENDRIX: All of these projects met
2 with the same opposition and many of the same what-
3 ifs. All of the mega projects involve geographical
4 obstacles and challenges thought to be insurmountable
5 to the naysayers. But through proper planning and
6 advanced engineering, today they all quietly lay in
7 the ground performing a conduit of energy for
8 America's needs, built and built right.

9 Pipelines are the safest and most
10 efficient way to transport any liquid or vapor, and
11 to that I don't believe there is an argument. When a
12 client such as TransCanada chooses the best value
13 contractors, who in turn use the best craftsmen in
14 the industry, utilizing third-party inspection to
15 insure complete compliance, that the environmental
16 issues are properly handled and instituted so that
17 the impact to the landowners and natural resources
18 are minimized.

19 You know, we talk about that minimize or
20 minimal, okay? When you built your house there was
21 an impact to the environment. Minimal, but there was
22 an impact. Build it but build it right. To me

23

1 personally, this is the most important thing. The
2 guys talk about jobs, and jobs are important, they
3 really are. Everybody needs a job. And this country
4 needs a lot of them.

5 Fortunately, in the pipeline industry,
6 we've had a good economy. When everybody else is
7 turned down, we've been doing pretty good, still
8 doing pretty good. The most important thing for me
9 is this. We need to quit the transfer of wealth to
10 the OPEC countries.

11 (Applause)

12 DANNY HENDRIX: We're going to continue to
13 buy fuel in this country. We're going to buy crude,
14 and we have a choice now to buy more from Canada and
15 bring it down and refine it for our use. We are
16 buying OPEC fuel at a million dollars a minute, a
17 million dollars a minute. A farmer can't afford
18 that. An environmentalist can't afford that. A
19 politician can't afford that. A pipeliner can't
20 afford that. This country can't afford that. Half a
21 trillion dollars.

22 This gives us an alternate to buy from.

23

1 Canada shares our boundaries, we share the Pacific,
2 we share the Atlantic. We share the economy with
3 them. We need to buy from Canada.

4 Now the reroute, I'm not against the
5 reroute. I'm all about that. I mean that's more
6 miles. I mean if we keep financing OPEC and they're
7 financing the wars, how can we win these two wars
8 when we're financing both sides? We can't do it. We
9 need the Canadian crude, we do. So let's figure out
10 a way to get that done. But build it and build it
11 right. Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
14 14.

15 JOHN HANSEN: Thank you. My name is John
16 Hansen. I'm the president of Nebraska Farmers Union.
17 We're the second oldest general farm organization in
18 the state proudly serving Nebraska's farm and ranch
19 families since 1913.

20 And I would say to Mr. McCollister you
21 didn't mention us when you talked about the
22 opposition. But you know what, we were here a long

23

1 time before you showed up, and we're going to be here
2 a long time after the millionaire who funds your
3 special interest group stops funding. We do
4 represent the public interest and we represent it
5 through sound public policy both at the state and the
6 federal level.

7 If we are to look at this issue clearly,
8 we must have an honest conversation. And part of
9 that conversation is stop the business of pretending
10 that this oil is somehow destined [sic] for U.S.
11 use. This pipeline --

12 (Applause)

13 JOHN HANSEN: This pipeline is about going
14 from Northern Alberta to the east to international
15 seaports with refining capacity in the east coast of
16 Texas, instead of the west coast of Canada for a
17 reason, because that is the easiest way for the
18 owners of the oil to get their oil home.

19 Now whose home? Who are we talking about?
20 Who owns the tar sands? Well, here's a list of the
21 home countries of the folks who own it.

22 I'm Norwegian and I have to tell you

23

1 Norway's one of them. We look at the laundry list
2 here of England, France, Canada, China, Korea, China
3 again, Korea, Thailand. If you can believe the folks
4 from TransCanada when they were talked to at the
5 state fair, they said Russia and China were the two
6 big folks who were driving this because they wanted
7 to get their oil home. There are no existing
8 conditions that this oil will ever be used in the
9 U.S. If there was, we'd be building a pipeline to
10 Cushing, Oklahoma, or McPherson, Kansas, where we've
11 put real jobs and energy here in the U.S.

12 (Applause)

13 JOHN HANSEN: If you want to talk about
14 real jobs, let's build jobs for the future. Let's
15 build jobs about ethanol and cellulosic ethanol and
16 biodiesel and wind, and those things that actually
17 come from the U.S. or going to be built in the U.S.,
18 and lets the U.S. benefit from it.

19 Thirty-seven years ago when I was first
20 elected to public office as a natural resource
21 district director, this part of the country made
22 national news. And what was the news? We had two

23

1 things, two variables that are in direct play here
2 today.

3 The leaching of foreign contaminants into
4 our groundwater and our water supply, and soil
5 erosion because our thinly-vegetated Sand Hills had
6 been disturbed and they were blowing away closing
7 county roads, creating a huge environmental
8 catastrophe. Local folks, natural resource districts
9 and others stepped up to the plate, did what we
10 needed to do, made the necessary corrections to
11 protect our very fragile Sand Hills and our
12 invaluable Ogallala Aquifer.

13 These Sand Hills are a national treasure
14 and the water in this ground is worth more than all
15 the oil in the world.

16 (Applause)

17 JOHN HANSEN: We've got a problem, and the
18 problem is that we have a vacuum relative to the
19 regulation of oil pipelines. We don't have the clear
20 hand of the federal government and we don't have,
21 unfortunately, the State of Nebraska stepping up and
22 assuming those authorities that those of us who have

23

1 done their homework know that we good and well have.

2 As a result we have created a vacuum that
3 puts our natural resources at risk, and for me as I
4 represent landowners, I urge you to listen to the
5 stories of landowners because it goes to the very
6 heart of the commitments of TransCanada relative to
7 all the things they're fixing to do for us and to us.
8 Because when push comes to shove, the treatment that
9 they have had of our landowners is atrocious and
10 indefensible. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker number 15.

13 BILL McALLISTER: Excuse me for one
14 minute. I want to announce that the overflow room is
15 open, and there's a live video feed with sound if
16 you're interested in going to our lecture room. It
17 is air-conditioned.

18 RON KAMINSKI: Good afternoon. My name is
19 Ron Kaminski. I'm the business manager of Laborers
20 Local 1140 here based in Nebraska. I'm also here
21 today as an executive board member of the Omaha
22 Federation of Labor. And on behalf of the 700

23

1 members of our local union, on behalf of the over
2 500,000 member of Laborers International Union in
3 North America, the 30,000 members of the Omaha
4 Federation of Labor and over 50,000 members of the
5 Nebraska AFL-CIO, I would like to express our support
6 for the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

7 Since 2006, our local union has trained
8 hundreds of residents of Nebraska for pipeline work
9 in the state. We constructed the Rockies Express
10 natural gas pipeline that runs through the aquifer.
11 We constructed also just recently the Keystone
12 pipeline, which is now operational.

13 I've heard a lot of talk today, and I
14 heard a lot of talk on Tuesday about moving the route
15 of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline down the
16 corridor that the Keystone pipeline runs right now.
17 A lot of folks don't understand that the Keystone
18 line also runs through the aquifer in our state.

19 We believe deeply in the jobs that this
20 will create. We believe deeply in the relationship
21 with TransCanada that we've had for years.
22 Unfortunately, not everybody in this room has got to
23

1 work with TransCanada, but I'm a little appalled by
2 the negative talk left and right about TransCanada.

3 With that relationship that we created,
4 TransCanada invested in the residents of our state.
5 As a result of that relationship, with the work we
6 did on the Keystone pipeline, we were able to open up
7 a new training facility located in Omaha, Nebraska.
8 At that training facility, not only do we train
9 pipeline workers, we train workers to build ethanol
10 plants in this state. We train workers to build
11 biodiesel plants in this state.

12 We also just kicked off our new
13 weatherization training, which trains folks to
14 weatherize homes in the state of Nebraska, to reduce
15 the amount of energy we use. We care deeply about
16 our environment.

17 When we worked on the original Keystone
18 pipeline project, the process was very
19 straightforward. We understood what needed to be
20 done. We did it on time. We did it within budget.
21 The line of communication between our union and
22 TransCanada was open, and we accomplished that

23

1 construction of that pipeline without any major
2 issues.

3 That is a hundred percent correct what you
4 hear today. You people may not believe it or not,
5 but where those leaks occurred with the Keystone
6 pipeline, those projects were built in those pump
7 stations by nonunion labor.

8 In the last few months you've heard
9 numbers that have been thrown around by some other
10 groups. Let's be honest about it. These other
11 groups, a lot of these environmental groups are
12 completely opposed to the use of fossil fuels. We
13 are going to continue to use fossil fuels in this
14 country, and we're going to continue to use them on a
15 daily basis.

16 Why would we continue to buy oil from
17 Middle East countries that do not like us one bit,
18 countries that we send our children over to fight
19 wars over oil, when we can get that further oil from
20 the country of Canada?

21 In closing today, I would like to say I
22 appreciate the State Department being here in
23

1 Atkinson. I'm a lifelong resident of the state of
2 Nebraska. I'm a huge Nebraska Cornhusker fan and
3 look forward to the Ohio State game here coming up
4 after all this is over.

5 But the bottom line is we need to get oil
6 from an ally. We need to build this pipeline to
7 create the jobs. Moving the proposed route is just a
8 stall tactic in our eyes because the original
9 Keystone line where a lot of people say like this
10 move, also runs through the aquifer. I urge the
11 State Department to approve the Keystone XL pipeline
12 permit so we can get Nebraskans back to work. Thank
13 you.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
16 16.

17 JOHN STANSBURY: Good afternoon. Thank
18 you for providing this forum. My name is John
19 Stansbury. I'm professor of environmental
20 engineering and water resource engineering at the
21 University of Nebraska.

22 Whether the pipeline should be built or
23

1 not is actually a very complex question. It requires
2 analysis of economic, social, political and
3 environmental concerns. Since I'm an environmental
4 engineer, I'm only going to address the last one, the
5 environmental concerns.

6 Whether the pipeline should be built or
7 not is a question that still needs to be debated.
8 But one thing that's absolutely certain is that the
9 permit as it now stands should not be allowed.

10 (Applause)

11 JOHN STANSBURY: The reason for that is
12 the Department of State has not satisfied the
13 requirements of the NEPA law. In NEPA, as everybody
14 knows, it requires an environmental impact statement.
15 Assumption of the environmental impact statement is
16 that it will be thorough, unbiased and independent.

17 None of those criteria have been satisfied
18 in the current environmental impact statement. It is
19 not thorough; it is not unbiased, and it is not
20 independent.

21 Essentially all of the substantive
22 findings in the EIS are taken directly from
23

1 TransCanada's document or documents of TransCanada's
2 consultants. And I'm going to give you some examples
3 of some of those so that you don't take my word for
4 it, this is right out of the document.

5 One of the things you have to do in the
6 EIS, to evaluate the potential impacts from spills,
7 is to evaluate the potential frequency of spills from
8 the pipeline. TransCanada -- and the documentation
9 of that process is directly from TransCanada's
10 documents. And the Department of State has chosen
11 simply to publish exactly what TransCanada wrote down
12 in their documents.

13 The first thing they did look at,
14 historical spill frequency from the historical
15 database. That's a great idea. Then they looked at
16 the categories of spills, that's also a great idea.
17 But one of the categories was spills with no
18 identified cause, so they simply decided to ignore
19 all of those spills in their assessment. That was 23
20 percent of all historical spills simply ignored in
21 the EIS. And the Department of State chose to use
22 that data set. So that is clearly not unbiased, and
23

1 it's clearly not independent.

2 Their calculations, which Department of
3 State chose to accept, resulted in 11 spills over the
4 50-year design life of the pipeline. If you use the
5 actual data, you get more like 91 spills. That's a
6 difference of eight times.

7 So what we're being asked to believe is
8 that TransCanada's pipeline, although I completely
9 believe that the pipefitters all do a good job, we're
10 being asked to believe that the new pipeline will be
11 eight times better than all the rest of the pipelines
12 in the world. A little tough to swallow, but the
13 Department of State has decided to go ahead and
14 accept that data.

15 I see I'm going long, I have to hurry up
16 here. Another thing you have to do is figure out the
17 worst case spill volume. One of the things
18 TransCanada did in their calculations was to use 11.5
19 minutes as the shutdown time for the pipeline in
20 their worst case spill scenario.

21 Well, 11.5 minutes might be the best case
22 spill scenario, but it's certainly not the worst case

23

1 spill scenario. And Department of State again has
2 chosen to use their 11.5 minutes in their
3 environmental impact statement. That is clearly not
4 unbiased and it's clearly not independent.

5 In fact, the recent spills from pipelines
6 are the shutdown times have been one hour at the
7 Yellowstone River, somewhere between two and 12 hours
8 at the Kalamazoo River. I think the worst case
9 scenario should be at least as long as the actual
10 shutdown times that we have data for. And the result
11 of that is it drastically reduces the predicted
12 volume of oil that will be spilled. Once again, not
13 unbiased and certainly not independent.

14 TransCanada, when they calculated some
15 potential impacts to spills in a river, calculated
16 that the concentration of benzene in the river would
17 be 2.2 milligrams per liter. That's 440 times the
18 drinking water standard. After they calculated that
19 it's going to be 440 times drinking water standard,
20 they did no further analysis. They didn't calculate
21 how far downstream it would go. They didn't
22 calculate how long it would last. They didn't

23

1 calculate how many people would be exposed. They
2 didn't calculate how many additional cancers there
3 might be.

4 They essentially didn't do the risk
5 assessment. And that was in the risk assessment
6 section of the EIS. So I don't know how you can
7 consider that this thing is thorough or complete or
8 adequate if the purpose of the section is not even
9 completed. So certainly not a thorough assessment.

10 And lastly, if they calculate if there's a
11 leak above an aquifer, that the leak would be small
12 and the plume would be localized. And the people
13 have pointed out that depends on your definition.
14 The inspections will only be every two weeks, so in
15 that two-week period, with a small spill, that will
16 be less than the detection capabilities of the
17 detection system, you could release somewhere around
18 60,000 gallons of benzene to the aquifer. And that
19 will form a very large plume, unlike what someone
20 said earlier.

21 Thank you very much. I guess my bottom
22 line is there has not been an independent, thorough,

23

1 adequate environmental impact statement done, so this
2 permit shouldn't even be considered until that is
3 completed.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
6 17.

7 JERI KUCHERA: Thank you for holding this
8 meeting in Atkinson today, and thank you for the
9 opportunity to comment. My name is Jeri Kuchera.
10 I'm a lifelong resident of Rock County, a farm wife,
11 a mother and a grandmother of six.

12 Approximately one month ago, my 97-year-
13 old mother passed away. She was an affected
14 landowner on the route of the proposed Keystone
15 pipeline. Her land has been in our family for over
16 110 years, and she was adamantly opposed to this
17 pipeline, as am I. Not only is this a political
18 issue, it is a very personal issue to me.

19 I do not believe that granting the
20 Presidential Permit for the proposed route is in the
21 national interest or in the interest of the state of
22 Nebraska. I find it very difficult to understand how
23

1 routing a 36-inch pipeline through the unique and
2 fragile environment and very shallow water table of
3 the Sand Hills can result in little or no
4 environmental impact.

5 There are many farmers and ranchers here
6 today who have seen the impact of disturbing the
7 ecologically sensitive area. The impacts of farming
8 and ranching practices from previous generations are
9 evident to this date in many areas in spite of years
10 of reclamation.

11 The FEIS states that there are 65 miles of
12 the pipeline where it is less than ten feet from the
13 aquifer. It does not say how many miles there are
14 where it is actually in the aquifer. Once again, the
15 farmers and ranchers here are knowledgeable about the
16 fluctuating water table in this area. There are many
17 areas where the seasonal water table is above the
18 surface of the ground. This is the Ogallala Aquifer.

19 The decision you are making should not be
20 based on the promise of some short-term jobs and
21 economic activity. TransCanada has put an
22 exaggerated and positive spin on everything
23

1 associated with the pipeline, including spills.

2 In Section 3.13.6.7 of the FEIS regarding

3 the socioeconomics of oil spills, it states quote:

4 "In some cases, response to oil spills could generate

5 positive local economic activity for the limited

6 duration of the spill response activities as a result

7 of the need for lodging, meals, equipment and other

8 facilities, materials and logistic support for the

9 cleanup crews and the incident command team," end

10 quote.

11 We do not need and nor should we assume

12 the risk for so-called positive local economic

13 activity.

14 (Applause)

15 JERI KUCHERA: The questionable tactics

16 used by the land agents employed by TransCanada to

17 gain easements does not give me any sense of trust in

18 this company. The intimidation, threats of

19 condemnation and blatant lies told to landowners by

20 agents undoubtedly resulted in many easements. Is

21 this a trustworthy method of doing business?

22 The decision you make will not be for the

23

1 short term, but will affect the future generations of
2 the Sand Hills and the state of Nebraska. The risk
3 to our water, our land, or livelihoods and the
4 futures of our children and grandchildren is not
5 acceptable. Please deny this permit.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
8 18.

9 DAVID BARNETT: Good afternoon. My name
10 is David Barnett and I'm here to speak on behalf of
11 the 6800 members of Pipeliners Local Union 798, and
12 the 340,000 members of the United Association.

13 I want to thank you for allowing me to
14 speak at this hearing today. As you know, our nation
15 is facing many problems, and I believe that's
16 something we can all agree on.

17 The two biggest challenges we face are
18 high unemployment and national security. These are
19 issues I think no one is disputing, but how we handle
20 these problems is usually where the conflict comes
21 in. And the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline is now
22 at the center of such conflict.

23

1 I feel it is because of misconceptions and
2 concerns about how this project will affect the
3 environment. The Keystone pipeline will certainly
4 have benefits for the national economy, especially
5 considering that every time there is a rise in gas
6 prices, we hear about how this affects every
7 individual and every business, small and large.

8 And not just in terms of what consumers
9 pay at the pump. There is also increased
10 manufacturing and transportation costs on virtually
11 every product and service that we enjoy. This
12 project will have great benefits to the states and
13 local communities along this route by pumping 600
14 million dollars in new tax revenues into their
15 economies.

16 It's a win-win situation that is an
17 estimated result in 6.5 billion dollar increase in
18 personal income, and 5.3 billion dollars in personal
19 property taxes over the life of the pipeline. With
20 all of the heated debates now taking place on the
21 subject of taxes, it is also important to note that
22 this project will cost the American taxpayers

23

1 nothing.

2 Instead of a bailout, this is a totally private
3 investment.

4 Finally, on the issue of national
5 security. Please consider the source of this oil.
6 It is coming from one of our closest allies and
7 largest trading partners. We already import more oil
8 from Canada than from any other country, and this
9 additional supply could help us reduce our dependence
10 on oil from the Middle East nations that do offer the
11 stability and friendship of our Canadian neighbors to
12 the north.

13 We also ask you to remember that if we
14 don't secure and refine this oil, then China will.
15 China will then sell it back to us at a higher cost.
16 Our relationship with China already includes a huge
17 debt owed by the United States, and a growing trade
18 imbalance in China's favor.

19 Now if you'll allow me to shift gears.
20 Our members constructed the original Keystone
21 pipeline, including some but not all of the pump
22 stations. The stations did not -- that we did not
23

1 construct were awarded in the open bidding process to
2 contractors with less trained and lesser-skilled
3 workforce.

4 It is within these few stations that we
5 did not construct, that all of these 12 leaks that
6 you have heard mentioned here today occurred. They
7 all occurred above ground and in these stations. I'm
8 here to tell you absolutely that none of these leaks
9 occurred in the below-ground pipeline that was
10 constructed totally by Local Union 798 members.

11 It is my feeling that this was a hard
12 lesson learned for TransCanada. I say that because
13 when it was time for the emergency repairs to be made
14 to these stations, TransCanada called upon our union
15 contractors and our Local 798 members to make
16 repairs, and rebuild it right.

17 I would also like to point out that if the
18 Keystone XL pipeline is constructed, TransCanada has
19 made a commitment to use our union contractors and
20 our union skilled labor to construct the entire
21 pipeline and pump stations in your state, and build
22 it right. This project will create an estimated
23

1 13,000 construction jobs, which is approximately 15
2 percent of these jobs going to my brothers and sister
3 members.

4 I have heard time and again that these
5 construction jobs are only temporary jobs and aren't
6 worthwhile jobs. Our members constructed the REX
7 pipeline in 2008, and the path of this pipeline was
8 west to east across Nebraska. I mention this for two
9 reasons. One, it, too, crossed the Ogallala Aquifer
10 to accompany approximately 20,000 additional miles of
11 pipelines that already exist and are safely
12 transporting products across it every day.

13 And two, this job created the opportunity
14 for many of your fellow Nebraskans to become
15 gainfully employed, and also by their choosing became
16 members of our local union.

17 The question of whether or not Keystone
18 TransCanada pipeline moves forward is really a
19 question of whether or not America moves forward. It
20 should not be a political issue, nor should it be
21 decided based on political ideology. This should be
22 about what is best for our nation. So it's time to
23

1 put all of those issues aside and focus on the facts.

2 When you examine the facts, you will find
3 that the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline is good for
4 the American economy and good for the American
5 people. On behalf of my 6800 pipeline members and
6 the 340,000 members of the United Association, I
7 humbly ask that the State Department approve the
8 Keystone XL pipeline project, and let's get the
9 paychecks flowing. Thank you.

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
11 19.

12 TIM TAYLOR: I'm Dr. Tim Taylor,
13 veterinarian and rancher from Newport, and the
14 pipeline route crosses my family's ranch.

15 The Sand Hills of Nebraska are an
16 ecological treasure for the state and the nation. I
17 do not believe that the Keystone XL pipeline
18 constructed in the Sand Hills is in our national
19 interest. Over 700 species of plants grow here, over
20 90 percent of those are native. Large tracts of our
21 ranch are populated with the same species of prairie
22 grass that stabilized windblown sand dunes thousands
23

1 of years ago.

2 This is not a result of passive
3 conservation, but rather active stewardship by my
4 family for over 100 years of cattle ranching. The
5 landscape bears scars of long abandoned wagon roads
6 that traverse the northwest, the southeasterly
7 direction of prevailing winds, and resulted in
8 massive blowouts. Winds whipped the sand with such
9 fury that it takes decades to bring partial
10 reclamation to these areas. Some have been fenced
11 out for over a generation to prevent their
12 reawakening.

13 The abundant supply of clean groundwater
14 converts an area that would otherwise be inhospitable
15 to most agriculture, into a paradise for cattle,
16 crops and kids. These two elements, the sand and the
17 water, are in a constant dynamic relationship with
18 each other. Rarely do we have Goldilocks conditions
19 where things are just right, and nature allows us to
20 make a mistake.

21 Only experience of generations and active
22 stewardship have allowed us to thrive. I'm proud

23

1 that today more than ever before, our business is in
2 balance with our local ecology. The future is bright
3 for our Sand Hills ranch. However, a dark cloud is
4 on the horizon. Good intentions but poor planning
5 has left over five miles of our ranch threatened by
6 the Keystone XL route. What has been developed over
7 thousands of years of natural conditions, and
8 enhanced by 100 years of responsible stewardship can
9 be erased by one bad decision.

10 If TransCanada is allowed to peel back the
11 fragile covering of these long-sleeping dunes and
12 penetrate the aquifer and our wet meadows, nature
13 will react in ways not anticipated by TransCanada or
14 the State Department's own EIS.

15 The winds have been unusually calm here
16 for the past week. In the night they came alive with
17 the fury, and this morning the sand was moving again
18 on the hills, and once again the winds resume their
19 work of bringing the Ogallala Aquifer's bounty to the
20 surface. Heed this warning. Protect the Sand Hills,
21 keep our country strong by routing this pipeline to
22 the more stable soils of the east and away from this

23

1 land of sand and water.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
4 20.

5 RON BECKMAN: Hello there, I'm Ron
6 Beckman. I'm from Plattsmouth, Nebraska, and member
7 of the Local 1140. And we've been low on work for
8 several years, and I know for a fact, and you people
9 know that the minute the pipeline does get into
10 place, your grandkids, your kids are going to be out
11 there trying to get a job, and I'm for that.

12 But let's take and quit arguing, and get
13 the pipeline signed over and done with. Thank you
14 very much.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
16 21.

17 JAMES OSBORNE: Thank you for letting me
18 share. My name is James Osborne. I'm from Brown
19 County, Ainsworth, Nebraska. Can you hear me? Okay.
20 I'm also a member of Local 554. I worked the first
21 Keystone pipeline. In fact, I was the teamster's
22 union steward when we came into Nebraska.

23

1 I saw how this went together, and the 798
2 guys are absolutely as good as gold. I don't think
3 anybody could build a better pipeline than 798.

4 (Applause)

5 JAMES OSBORNE: I don't have any problem
6 with the union labor. In fact, I made \$27 an hour
7 and almost \$14 an hour in benefits, and got paid
8 between 60 and 80 hours a week. I made a lot of
9 money. I just came back from the Ruby pipeline, I
10 made a lot of money out there.

11 But you know what, I can't sell out the
12 Ogallala Aquifer. I can't do it.

13 (Applause)

14 JAMES OSBORNE: There's no reason for this
15 pipeline to come down through the aquifer. Now I was
16 fortunate enough to get to move around in different
17 positions on the first Keystone pipeline. In fact, I
18 got to bore underneath the river, which was a new
19 experience for me.

20 When they put this pipeline together,
21 4,000 foot of this pipeline in Nebraska, we hauled
22 water from South Dakota to Nebraska because Nebraska

23

1 did not want them to set a precedence of filling that
2 pipeline with our water. Then when we emptied the
3 water we hauled it back to South Dakota to dump it,
4 because they did not want Nebraska water in that
5 pipeline. Because this pipeline, the first Keystone
6 pipeline, was designed as a water line, but nobody in
7 North Dakota, South Dakota or Nebraska, would let
8 them transport water through our state. So then they
9 came back with this tar sands pipeline.

10 This is a guise, that's what I believe.
11 If you look at the Enbridge pipeline that went all
12 the way to the Great Lakes, and has spilled oil in
13 every one of the Great Lakes, and now they're
14 cleaning that up. And under the guise of cleanup,
15 they're actually shipping oily water down the
16 pipeline, which is what they wanted in the first
17 place.

18 Now there's going to be spills in this
19 pipeline, okay? It's going to happen. I'm glad to
20 hear that they're going to manufacture it in the
21 United States, if they manufacture it, or if they
22 build it; I hope that's true. The first one was all

1 Indonesia and China pipe, a hundred percent of it
2 was. And I don't think it was up to quality.

3 Now they want to use thinner pipe and
4 higher pressure. That's not a good thing. They want
5 to actually take a bigger risk. If anything, I think
6 if they force their way through here and the State
7 Department was to make this thing come through here,
8 then let's create some real jobs. Let's put a 72-
9 inch pipeline around that 36-inch pipeline, and we'll
10 ship water in the big one and they can ship oil in
11 the little one.

12 (Applause)

13 JAMES OSBORNE: And we'll know that
14 there's a spill long before it gets into the
15 environment because it'll be in our water in between
16 the two pipelines. That would be pipeline safety.

17 Now the first thing we should do is keep
18 it off the aquifer. It's going to create more jobs;
19 it's going to be a longer term thing. And if they're
20 truly worried about this, they had all of these on
21 the same drawing -- they already had them in the
22 works when they built the first one. If you look at

23

1 the map, they could have put all three of them in at
2 the same time if they truly wanted to save money.
3 But they didn't. This is about water. This is about
4 getting into this Ogallala Aquifer.

5 Now you guys at the State Department, and
6 they're already talking about abandoned pipelines
7 being able to transfer water from region to region.
8 So who's to say that they're not going to get these
9 pipelines in through the aquifer and into these water
10 areas. Then they're going to say you know what, the
11 tar sands oil was a bad idea, we're sorry. But the
12 federal government says that we can transfer water
13 from region to region with our abandoned pipelines.

14 (Applause)

15 JAMES OSBORNE: If we want to transfer
16 water, I think the State of Nebraska ought to build a
17 Sand Hills Water District and we ought to transfer
18 water all over the country. We ought to sell them
19 all that floodwater that's caused so many problems.
20 It ought to be in a pipeline, and it should be sold.
21 And then we'll create some union jobs; we'll create
22 Nebraska jobs; we'll create jobs for everybody. And

23

1 that would be an awesome thing I believe.

2 Now one other thing that I just want to
3 make a point is, we have the choice to have that
4 water line. It may never happen. I may not be the
5 friendliest alcohol or ethanol proponent, but we have
6 the choice because we have clean water. Now I can
7 argue with these farmers all day long, but at least
8 they have the choice to grow corn now. If we spoil
9 this water and get this stuff in the water, we're not
10 going to have those choices.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
13 22.

14 MICHAEL WHATLEY: Good evening. I'm
15 Michael Whatley and I'm the Executive Vice President
16 of Consumer Energy Alliance. CEA is made up of more
17 than 250,000 individuals and over 165 affiliate
18 organizations that represent every sector of the U.S.
19 economy, including truckers, highway users, shippers,
20 airlines, manufacturers, iron and steel producers,
21 farmers, chemical manufacturers and energy producers.

22 CEA strongly supports the Keystone XL

23

1 pipeline because of the economic benefits it will
2 provide, not only to Nebraska but for the nation as a
3 whole. The pipeline will create more than 7500 jobs
4 in Nebraska, and over 120,000 jobs total across the
5 United States. Even more, this project will generate
6 over 150 million dollars in state and local taxes for
7 Nebraska, and generate more than 20 billion dollars
8 of economic growth nationwide. That's a lot of money
9 that can go to improving public schools, roads and
10 hospitals.

11 The Keystone XL pipeline project will also
12 strengthen our national energy security. Canada is
13 our neighbor, our ally and our largest trading
14 partner. The 700,000 barrels of oil per day that
15 this pipeline will bring to the Gulf Coast refineries
16 will be coming from places like Oklahoma, Montana,
17 the Dakotas and Canada.

18 It is not subject to violent revolutions
19 like we've seen this year in Egypt and Libya. It
20 cannot be used as a political tool like Russian and
21 OPEC oil can. It is highly discounted from the
22 prices we pay for oil from the Persian Gulf, and will
23

1 help drive down fuel prices for both our military and
2 American drivers.

3 Not only will the pipeline bring great
4 economic and energy security benefits to Nebraska and
5 the United States, it will do so without harming our
6 water or our environment. The State Department's
7 extensive environmental review of the pipeline
8 concluded there is no scenario in which the Northern
9 High Plains Aquifer would be adversely affected.

10 The State Department also studied over a
11 dozen other routes for the pipeline, and found that
12 the current route is the safest alternative, and that
13 the other routes examined would, quote, "disturb more
14 land and cross more bodies of water than the proposed
15 route."

16 Over 25,000 miles of product pipeline
17 already cross the Ogallala. Keystone XL will be
18 built with state-of-the-art technology, and pipelines
19 are the safest most efficient way to transport oil.

20 It is clear that it is in the national
21 interest to allow construction of this important
22 pipeline. Because it will be environmentally safe,

23

1 will create thousands of high paying jobs; we will
2 significantly boost the U.S. economy; it will enhance
3 our energy security, CEA requests on behalf of energy
4 consumers nationwide, the Administration grant the
5 Presidential Permit and allow the construction of the
6 Keystone XL pipeline. Thank you.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Before I call on
8 number 23, I just want to make a few announcements.

9 First is Bill McAllister said earlier
10 there is an overflow room with air-conditioning,
11 where you can watch the public meeting. I also would
12 like to convey that we're going to have to take five-
13 minute break for our reporter. And I'd like to do
14 that after the 23rd speaker.

15 I'd also like to point out that we have a
16 total of 156 of you signed in to speak, and we want
17 to get to all of you. But in order for us to do
18 that, I would greatly appreciate it if you could make
19 your remarks succinct. If you could make your
20 remarks within three minutes. And what we'd like to
21 do is display a card when you have one minute to
22 speak, then you'll see a card that says thank you.

23

1 That's one thing that you can do.

2 You can also, to the extent that someone
3 has said or made remarks that you agree with, you can
4 certainly state your name and you can just say you
5 agree with that individual. You can also of course,
6 submit your comments in writing. And one thing I
7 would ask of you, and I know that this is going to be
8 extremely difficult, but if you can hold your
9 applause. Because when you are applauding that takes
10 time away from other speakers. So again if you can
11 consider that I'd appreciate it.

12 Speaker number 23.

13 MAGGIE CONRAD: Thank you, ma'am. Contain
14 yourself, Big Red. Hi, my name is Maggie Conrad.
15 I'm 27, grew up in Ericson, Nebraska; graduated from
16 high school, joined the United States Navy, fought
17 for freedom for four years; came home, married my
18 high school sweetheart, moved to Burwell, and
19 currently have the hardest yet most rewarding job in
20 the world. I'm a stay-at-home mom.

21 To my main bang. Picture in your head
22 your children, grandchildren, maybe it's your

23

1 neighbor's kids, everyone in here that has a child
2 that is near and dear to them. Just for a moment
3 picture their cheesy little grin.

4 Well, I have three reasons I do not agree
5 with this route. Gracie, who is five; Chet, four;
6 and Natalie, 18 months. My children. They're why
7 I'm here today.

8 My children and the kids in your life are
9 the future of America, and I don't think it would be
10 morally right -- yes, I'm from the Sand Hills and we
11 still believe in that -- it would be morally wrong to
12 give them a horrible start, setting them up for
13 failure. You have heard and are going to hear a lot
14 more educational facts and numbers from the folks on
15 my side.

16 I'm not going to preach those numbers to
17 you. It's not if, it's when it will ruin our home.
18 You folks probably ain't never been in this part of
19 the country, and to be real honest, I'm sure that
20 Secretary Clinton doesn't give a plug nickel about my
21 home. But out here money doesn't mean as much as you
22 may think.

23

1 We have just enough to take care of our
2 family and that's all we need, because family is
3 second to the Lord, and a hell of a lot higher than
4 wealth. Our family fund doesn't include Hawaii,
5 Martha's Vineyard or even Florida. It's running in
6 the sprinkler, swimming in the beloved Cedar River
7 and pulling a bluegill out of the Calamus.

8 That is perfectly okay with us. Our world
9 doesn't revolve around stocks, it revolves around
10 what is wrong and what is right. And we don't have a
11 two-story building where I'm from. We have neighbors
12 that wait and truly care when they ask you how's your
13 day. That's why we love it.

14 Now that I have brought you down to a
15 level of every young family, citizen and landowner
16 around here, think again of the kiddos in your mind.
17 Let's answer that million dollar yet so simply stupid
18 question, is the Keystone pipeline in the best
19 interest for us.

20 Let me answer with a question. Could you
21 look at your child in the eye and say sorry, Gracie,
22 I sold your future, your livelihood and your kids'

23

1 kids to some overrated two-bit oil company? Hell no,
2 that's my answer. My kids are my life just as yours
3 are to each of you. Put your family before big
4 money. If nothing else, think of my family, because
5 I have been to war ready to die for yours and your
6 family's freedom. It's your turn. God bless America
7 and God bless your family.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. If we can have a
10 five-minute break and we will resume after the five
11 minutes, with speaker number 24.

12 (Recess taken)

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker 24, can you come to
14 the microphone, speaker number 24. Is speaker
15 number 24 here? May I call on Mitchell Parker with
16 the Tribal Council. Speaker number 25.

17 CONNIE WEICHMAN: My name is Connie
18 Weichman. I'm not associated with any party --

19 MS. HOBGOOD: We can't hear you. If you
20 can speak into the mic. And also, I just want to
21 reiterate we're going to go to three minutes so that
22 we can have as many of you speaking as possible. We

23

1 appreciate if your remarks can be as succinct as
2 possible. Thank you.

3 CONNIE WEICHMAN: My name is Connie
4 Weichman. I'm not associated with any party or
5 group. I came here today to represent my family.
6 Along with my husband and son, we ranch southwest of
7 Stuart. We have been lifelong residents of Holt
8 County.

9 The proposed pipeline will cross our
10 property. President Obama says we should get our oil
11 from a friendly source, Canada, our friendly
12 neighbor. What kind of friend badgers and bullies
13 you? What kind of friend says he has the right of
14 eminent domain to take your land, land that we have
15 worked hard to say is ours.

16 We are good stewards of the land. We as
17 Nebraskans are proud of our clean, fresh water, the
18 Ogallala Aquifer. It's been said that the decision
19 of this project should be based on science, not
20 emotion. How can you not be emotional over something
21 as universal as our water, especially when there's
22 potential to have it poisoned?

23

1 I can't believe that any study can say
2 that this project will have no impact on our
3 environment. Some of these farms and ranches have
4 been in families over 100 years. We know what it
5 takes to reclaim it. We've been working the same
6 land generation after generation. And how long did
7 it take you to do a study, a few short months?

8 Engineers are only human and humans make
9 errors. A project this enormous cannot be built
10 without some errors. As for the jobs and economic
11 boost for our state and communities, it will be short
12 term, but the stress of living with a pipeline
13 running through our land will be forever.

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
15 26. Speaker number 26.

16 MITCHELL PARKER: Good evening. My name
17 is Mitch Parker. I'm an elected official from the
18 Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, and we are located right in
19 Northeast Nebraska along the Missouri River.

20 And today I'm honored to be here on behalf
21 of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, and that this is a
22 historical event for us. We have never, ever been

23

1 contacted to participate in these projects. And
2 being the first Nebraskans, I'm proud of that.

3 My people have resided in this area since
4 the early 1600s and this truly is historical for us.
5 I thank you all for your input here.

6 Native citizens of Nebraska deserve to be
7 heard on this pipeline issue. This is the first time
8 that we have been afforded the opportunity to
9 participate in the process. And we appreciate the
10 opportunity to voice our feelings about this
11 important issue.

12 For the Omaha Tribe this is a significant
13 issue and we have an opportunity to help each other
14 to cooperate in the process, and to provide support
15 and guidance to TransCanada as they cross our native
16 lands and waters.

17 The Tribal Historical Preservation Office
18 has worked with TransCanada cooperatively. Perhaps
19 the first time that this has happened on a major
20 project. TransCanada respects the native culture and
21 has involved our Tribal Historical Preservation
22 Office in all of its activities on our native lands

23

1 to show the proper respect to our cultural and
2 historical sites. We appreciate that.

3 As the Native Americans are the first
4 environmentalists, we appreciate the cooperation we
5 have received from TransCanada to engage in
6 consultation with us to give us a voice in the
7 process. And today here, on behalf of the Omaha
8 Tribe of Nebraska, I'm grateful that I can voice on
9 behalf of our people the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, we
10 are one of four tribes that are in the state of
11 Nebraska. And I heard a gentleman say he's proud to
12 be living in one of the greatest states in the Union.
13 We are in support of that. And we're quite proud to
14 be Nebraskans here.

15 My father, my late father used to say
16 we're the first Nebraskan, don't forget that. So I
17 repeat his words, you know. And thank you very much.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
20 27.

21 ANN WEICHMAN: Hello, welcome to North
22 Central Nebraska. My name is Ann Weichman. I grew
23

1 up in Stuart, about ten miles from here, and I now
2 live in Ainsworth. I'm speaking on behalf of my
3 family, the past and future generations.

4 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can speak into the
5 mic so that everyone can hear you.

6 ANN WEICHMAN: In the last three major oil
7 catastrophes in Michigan, Montana and the Gulf, one
8 thing has been evident. A thorough check or an
9 additional step, or an additive fence would have
10 prevented major and catastrophic losses of time,
11 money and life. We are at that point in Nebraska.
12 The time in which a decision can be made to prevent a
13 catastrophe.

14 I urge you to make that decision to
15 prevent the damages and losses that can be prevented,
16 and deny the TransCanadian company the permit to
17 cross our Sand Hills. This is a defining moment in
18 Nebraska.

19 Will we look back at this moment and say
20 this is when we should have made a stand? Let us
21 have no regrets. Please deny the pipeline permit.
22 Thank you.

23

1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. And again if you
3 can hold your applause I'd really appreciate it.
4 Speaker number 28.

5 KASTER DAVIS: Hello everyone, my name is
6 Kaster Davis. I'm a heavy equipment operator from
7 Union Hall 571. I've been through a few of these
8 meetings and here now, and I've been hearing the same
9 thing over and over again; no, yes, no, yes. It's
10 time to make a decision.

11 I support the pipeline and Americans go
12 back to work. Thank you very much.

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
14 29.

15 PAUL CORKLE: My name is Paul Corkle. I'm
16 a Holt County resident my entire life. I represent
17 the City of Atkinson. I'm also one of the city
18 councilmen. I'm also a farmer/rancher. I own land
19 not adjacent -- not right on the pipeline, but I own
20 it just a couple miles from the pumping station, and
21 the power line that will operate the pumping station
22 does cross through a mile of my property.

23

1 I am opposing the pipeline. I think that
2 on our property the water table is far too shallow.
3 We have difficulty repairing the fences during the
4 springtime and during the winter because of adverse
5 condition. I don't know how you're going to repair
6 this pipeline when it's under water.

7 Lastly I'd address the City's issue. The
8 City of Atkinson two years ago was notified by the
9 State Department State of Nebraska that we could no
10 longer meet the requirements of our sewer plant. It
11 was obsolete and we needed to replace it. So the
12 City hired an engineering firm. We also had a
13 gentleman like number 16, he was from the EPA, the
14 BETU, the USDA, Army Corps of Engineers.

15 We had a geological survey. We did
16 borings. We did soil compaction tests for a 32-acre
17 lagoon system. Ultimately, we even had discussion of
18 putting in state-of-the-art polyurethane liner and
19 raising the thing two and a half feet out of the
20 ground as opposed to being ground level. We were
21 going to haul the dirt in, raise it up two and a half
22 feet.

23

1 When the dust all cleared, bottom line is
2 that they said you're too close to the water table
3 and your sand soil will not contain the effluence.

4 Bottom line is why can we not build a
5 sewer plant and yet you think this TransCanada
6 project, which is seven feet in the ground, and
7 encompasses 65 miles of our Ogallala Aquifer, why
8 would that not be a bigger danger than our 32 acres
9 waste lagoon system? I don't understand.

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
11 30.

12 RICHARD SCHMIDT: Thank you,
13 representatives of the Department of State, and thank
14 you for the citizens of Atkinson and surrounding
15 communities. My name is Richie Schmidt and I work
16 for Great Plains Laborers District Council. We
17 represent 10,000 construction craft laborers
18 throughout the states of Illinois, Iowa, South Dakota
19 and the great state of Nebraska.

20 There's probably not much that I can say
21 tonight that probably hasn't already been said. I
22 agree, obviously, with everybody whose number ended

23

1 with an even number.

2 But one thing that I would like to say,
3 that I don't think I've -- people really touched on,
4 and I think really applies to this upcoming pipeline.
5 In my work in the area that I cover, there's 1,055
6 miles between the two furthest points. I spend a lot
7 of time traveling areas, all rural communities, or at
8 least for the most part rural communities and
9 representing our members and our business partners.

10 One thing I do see when I go to these
11 rural communities is this day and age which we live
12 in, more and more people; our sons, our daughters,
13 our family members, are moving out of the small towns
14 and into the bigger cities. Things just aren't what
15 they were 40 or 50 years ago. I think rural
16 communities -- I'm from Iowa and I see it there, and
17 the work I do in Nebraska, small towns are dying.
18 And it's sad to see because this is really where
19 America was built, and this is the engine that drives
20 our country.

21 So when I talk about that, I want to talk
22 about the economic impact of this pipeline and the

23

1 effect that it'll have as it travels through
2 Nebraska.

3 It's going to give us an opportunity for
4 our small businesses in places like Atkinson,
5 O'Neill, all the way down to Lincoln and Oklahoma.
6 And the 1700 miles or whatever the pipeline's going
7 to travel, I think that there's one thing that can't
8 be denied. There's going to be workers here.
9 Obviously they're going to come in from out of state
10 because that's just the nature of construction.

11 And when those people are here there's
12 going to be an infusion of money that comes into our
13 local businesses unlike anything that probably towns
14 like this have ever seen before.

15 It will also give an opportunity for
16 Nebraskans to build this pipeline. People that live
17 in these communities are going to make sure that this
18 pipeline gets built right. They're going to make
19 sure that they're in the best interest of the
20 construction of this pipeline. So as this pipeline
21 passes through the aquifer, obviously we've heard
22 both sides of the argument and how important it is.

23

1 Our families, too, are involved and want
2 the best air, the best water and the better standard
3 of living in our communities. The best way to insure
4 that's going to happen is that people in these
5 communities, make sure they build the pipeline.

6 So I humbly ask the State Department to
7 pass this Presidential Permit and build this pipeline
8 as proposed. Thank you.

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
10 31.

11 GERALDINE DE GROFF: I'm Geraldine
12 DeGroff. We're sixth generation on the ranches. We
13 have our children here and we ranch in Rock and Holt
14 county.

15 There are 174,000 square miles in this
16 Ogallala Aquifer underlying eight states. It's our
17 nation's best interest to protect our food supply in
18 the central part of the United States. We wish the
19 XL pipeline to go around an area where it does not
20 jeopardize our nation's supply of water and food.

21 It's not in our country's best interest to
22 allow the pipeline to pass over our Ogallala Aquifer.

23

1 Many people that are here today have lived all their
2 lives in this area in the Sand Hills of Nebraska. We
3 know our land. We know how porous it is, and how
4 fragile it is. We know when the water table rises
5 and falls before and after the irrigation system.

6 The most valuable possession that we have
7 is our water. We require it to live and sustain not
8 only ourselves, but also our animals and our precious
9 wildlife that we cherish. This is what the vast
10 majority of the people in the Sand Hills here want
11 today, is to save our water.

12 The is God's country. Yes, we have many
13 college graduates that are living on the farms and
14 ranches today. They can make a living by going to
15 the cities and work. Even the state government right
16 at this time is trying to promote and encourage our
17 young people to stay in the country because they
18 realize that a large portion of our people living in
19 the country are in their sunshine years, and soon
20 will be retiring and passing on to the next world.
21 And they're worried about who's going to provide the
22 food necessary to support the population.

23

1 We cannot continue our life as we know it
2 if our water is damaged. Eight million people drink
3 the water out of the Ogallala Aquifer. They claim
4 that our ethanol plants are using a million gallons a
5 day. There are two and a half million cattle in
6 Cherry County that depend on it for life.

7 Most American people don't realize how
8 essential and crucial agriculture is to our lives and
9 our economy. We are used to having our grocery store
10 shelves filled and our kitchens filled. But look and
11 read and see how some of our neighboring foreign
12 countries are living.

13 People need to comprehend that it is
14 because of the farmers and ranchers that the food is
15 in the stores, after they have worked many untold
16 hours in adverse weather conditions to provide it for
17 everyone.

18 In closing, not everybody ranches or
19 farms, but everyone needs water and food. I would
20 thank you. Thank you for your help.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number

23

1 32.

2 BILL GERHARDT: Hello, I'm Bill Gerhardt.
3 I with Laborers International North America. I came
4 up to say a couple of things and I might ramble on
5 about some other things.

6 But I've been around and on pipelines most
7 of my working career. They're one of the safest ways
8 to move products, move fluids, move gas, move
9 liquids. There's pipelines under Nebraska, under
10 Iowa, under Kansas now, thousands of miles. And I
11 can't remember the last time I heard of a pipeline
12 rupture or a pipeline leak, or pipeline anything.

13 The other thing is that these provide good
14 jobs, like the gentleman prior to the lady before me.
15 In rural Iowa jobs are hard to come by, and this is
16 going to stimulate the economy. And national
17 security, who wouldn't rather buy petroleum from a
18 friend than to send it overseas to the Middle East.
19 Those are the two things I was going to talk about,
20 but I'm going to expand here a little bit.

21 It appears we have a lot of farmers and
22 ranchers here, and I see a lot of red too, and I

23

1 assume that's not the Wisconsin Badger people. I
2 just want to say I grew up in a small rural town, a
3 lot smaller than where I'm at now. I remember the
4 coffee shops and the barber shops. I remember
5 Saturday nights when the farmers brought their cream
6 and eggs to town. I know what it's like to live in a
7 rural town. I know how hard it is to eke out a
8 living.

9 But I just want to tell the farmers and
10 ranchers here something maybe the environmentalists
11 aren't telling you, is that the biggest ecological
12 disaster in the Gulf of Mexico wasn't the BP spill.
13 It was that dead zone created by the herbicides and
14 pesticides and fertilizers that come down from the
15 Missouri, from the Platte, from the Niobrara, from
16 the Nishnabotna into the Mississippi and into the
17 Gulf.

18 Another thing I want to talk about too, we
19 have a lot of people here throwing stones,
20 environmental stones. I remember when I grew up two
21 decades of indiscriminate spraying of DDT where half
22 our songbirds were gone, the American eagle was on
23

1 the verge of extinction. So I'm just saying before
2 you start throwing ecological stones, you ought to
3 think about things that we can do to change the
4 environment around us.

5 I won't even go into factory farms and the
6 inhumane treatment of animals, of pigs and chickens
7 and the turkeys, and how we have growth hormones,
8 steroids and antibiotics in our food chains now.

9 But at any rate, I hope the State
10 Department approves this permit. Thank you.

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 33.

12 LINDA BUOY: My name is Linda Buoy, I'm
13 president of the Sand Hills region of the Nebraska
14 Farmers Union. Welcome to the Sand Hills.

15 We have collected over 600 signatures in
16 Rock and Holt County opposing the placement of the
17 Keystone pipeline through the Sand Hills and the
18 Ogallala Aquifer. And an additional 100 signatures.

19 TransCanada to Naper landowner dated
20 July 21, 2010. "This letter is Keystone's final
21 offer. We hope to acquire this property through
22 negotiation. If we are unable to do so, we will be

23

1 forced to invoke the power of eminent domain, and
2 will initiate condemnation proceedings against this
3 property after the expiration of one month period."

4 The initial easement offer from
5 TransCanada to landowners contained Exhibit B, which
6 listed the legal description of all property owned by
7 the landowner. "South Dakota TransCanada Keystone
8 pipeline LP easement and right-of-way agreement
9 grantor, landowner, may limit his liability by
10 obtaining an insurance policy. The policy shall have
11 a limit of not less than two million dollars."

12 Letter from McGrath North, attorney from
13 TransCanada Keystone Pipeline to Holt County
14 Attorney. "If the Board were to adopt the ordinance
15 in its current form without curing the deficiencies,
16 Keystone would be forced to seriously consider
17 initiating litigation to protect its interests."

18 According to a TransCanada analysis, this
19 strategy for the Keystone XL pipeline would raise
20 Canadian oil prices by three dollars per barrel
21 overall, and six-fifty-five per barrel in the
22 Midwest.

23

1 A refinery expert and an economist have
2 confirmed that this would cause a seven to 15-cent
3 increase respectively for each gallon of gas made
4 from that oil.

5 The bottom line is Keystone XL pipeline
6 will cost the Americans up to four billion more each
7 year for the same Canadian oil we are already buying.
8 Farmers, ranchers, consumers and businesses in the
9 Midwest would incur the brunt of this cost.

10 This is United States of America. I find
11 it appalling a foreign corporation can come into our
12 country, dictate to Nebraska farms and ranches they
13 will operate an 1833-mile crude oil pipeline, and the
14 path of that pipeline will cross your property.

15 We have seen the true face of TransCanada,
16 a foreign corporation that will use questionable and
17 deceptive tactics to further its greed-based agenda.
18 This is not our friendly neighbor furnishing oil to
19 the United States. Thank you. And I have the
20 accompanying documentation for everything I said, and
21 I will put it in the box.

22 (Applause)

23

1 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker number 34.

2 WADE PILGREEN: Hello. My name is Wade
3 Pilgreen, a 31-year member of Pipeliners Local Union
4 798, which has a total of 6800 members. I proudly
5 say I am a paid official here to represent the 6800
6 members that are currently spread across this country
7 building the infrastructure to provide this state and
8 49 more states the avenue to have gas, diesel and
9 natural gas shipped to them.

10 I appreciate the time the State Department
11 has allowed me to speak on this topic. I do realize
12 this is a passionate topic for both sides, and I
13 truly believe working together we can get through
14 this process with everyone involved getting good
15 results in the end.

16 I do know everyone in this room is
17 concerned about the safety and environmental issues
18 of the Keystone XL pipeline, but I know without a
19 doubt we will build it better than any pipeline to
20 date.

21 I have been involved in the pipeline
22 industry for many years, and know these pipelines are

23

1 built to the highest standard with good quality,
2 highly certified welders from our union. We do care
3 about the communities that these pipelines run
4 through. But I know everything that our forefathers
5 have done way before my time has involved some risk
6 to get to where we are today.

7 The invention of electric per se. If it
8 were stopped, there would be no way to pump water and
9 raise crops. Even the building of this pipeline
10 someone somewhere, even if moved will have to assume
11 some risk. But if we do not take some risk in this
12 country, this country will become stagnant.

13 There have been way too many projects
14 stopped across this country. We need these projects
15 and if they are stopped, that means these
16 corporations will leave and take these projects
17 overseas, thus making us more dependent on foreign
18 countries, and thus them telling us how we live here
19 in America.

20 When this oil is shipped overseas, do you
21 think it will be refined in a more environmentally
22 sound manner? No. We need to keep it here, refine

23

1 it in the best possible way; put people back to work
2 and keep America moving forward. America has let way
3 too many jobs slip away to the foreign countries.
4 This needs to stop. When jobs are moved overseas,
5 we're then obligated to send troops to these areas to
6 protect our interests. Then they ultimately -- they
7 are the ones that take the big risk.

8 So this is why I support the Keystone XL
9 pipeline, and believe this project needs to go and it
10 needs to go now. Thanks.

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
12 35.

13 TRACY THOMPSON: Hello, I'm Tracy
14 Thompson. I grew up on a ranch south of Stuart,
15 Nebraska. The Keystone XL pipeline's current route,
16 if approved, is crossing this ranch. I am also a
17 registered nurse and I have several concerns
18 associated with the construction of a tar sand
19 pipeline.

20 The not if but when a spill of tar sand
21 occurs, the devastation to not only our way of life,
22 our precious water, the Ogallala Aquifer. This has

23

1 the potential to destroy the water supply from here
2 to the eastern part of the state.

3 Keystone XL said they will not tell us
4 what chemicals are added to the tar sands as this is
5 their trade secret. Our government has established
6 laws to protect people who come into contact with
7 chemicals of any kind, so hospitals and poison
8 control centers nationwide can treat victims exposed
9 to chemicals rapidly and correctly.

10 How can a company in another nation come
11 into the United States and not have to follow our
12 laws and safety procedures? Not knowing what
13 chemical the compounds added to the tar sands makes
14 it impossible to test for water contamination let
15 alone treat the victims.

16 Why are we not looking more into green
17 renewable energy that is better for our future and
18 the environment? I feel allowing a foreign nation to
19 be able to enter the United States for their and
20 other foreign governments' financial gain, while the
21 United States is left with the devastation of our
22 land, water, way of life, and ultimately paying for

23

1 their pipeline expenses and higher taxes and fuel
2 expenses, I feel there is just no justification for
3 allowing this pipeline if you research the fragility
4 of the Sand Hills.

5 Once you break the topsoil and add heat to
6 this pipeline, the topsoil will continue to blow. If
7 you do not understand the Sand Hills, there are
8 blowouts older than I am. Even with the conservation
9 efforts, these blowouts will take centuries to
10 recover if ever.

11 Is the pipeline being constructed for the
12 oil and financial gain of foreign countries at the
13 expense of the United States' largest, safest
14 drinking water supply, economy, environment,
15 agricultural production and increase in health-
16 related illness both in humans and livestock?

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
19 36.

20 ROBERT WILDS: Thank you for the
21 opportunity to provide my testimony on the Keystone
22 XL project. My name is Robert Wilds. I am a special
23

1 pipeline representative of the International Union of
2 Operating Engineers.

3 The International Union of Operating
4 Engineers represents 400,000 construction workers in
5 this country. Contractors that employ the operating
6 engineers and the other crafts are represented here
7 tonight, have constructed over 30,000 miles of
8 pipeline in the past ten years.

9 I did have a prepared statement. I'm
10 going to stray away from it a little bit. If I run
11 out of time, I run out of time.

12 First thing I'd like to do, I'd like to
13 thank all you farmers and ranchers in here. Every
14 time I sit down at my dinner table I thank the Lord
15 for the American farmer. Now for me, I've been in
16 the pipeline industry for 25 years. I've worked in
17 over 20 states. I did a stint overseas.

18 In the 25 years I've been pipelining, I
19 have seen the pipeline construction from one end to
20 the other, from the clearing to the final restoration
21 and everything in between. And over those 25 years,
22 I have seen it get safer and safer and safer.

23

1 Everything that is done, every project, something new
2 has come up to make the pipeline safer and more
3 environmentally friendly.

4 What that being said, I'll try to continue
5 on here. Keystone XL project will create thousands
6 of jobs in the construction and manufacturing
7 industry at a time that our construction industry and
8 economy really need a boost. These workers will
9 spend their wages from this project in many
10 communities along the pipeline route, giving the
11 local economy some needed revenue, not to mention
12 creating more jobs, means more tax revenue and more
13 benefits for our communities. The seven billion
14 dollar private sector project will be built without
15 the use of public funds.

16 This pipeline will not only carry Canadian
17 crude, it will pick up crude from North Dakota and
18 Montana, and carry it down to the refineries in
19 Texas. The Department of Transportation statistics
20 show that pipelines are the safest and most
21 economical and ecological way to transport crude oil
22 and natural gas across the land.

23

1 Keystone XL project will be regulated by
2 the Department of Transportation. The company will
3 also be mandated by the Pipeline and Hazardous
4 Materials Safety Administration and incorporate 57
5 special conditions along the whole pipeline route,
6 conditions to which no other whole pipeline in this
7 country is subject to, from special construction
8 techniques to enhanced specifications and design and
9 materials. These conditions insure the commitment to
10 safety by all parties involved in the construction
11 and operation and regulation of this project.

12 The environmental review is clear that
13 this pipeline will improve the environment and the
14 safety of the general public. It will also reduce
15 our dependence on heavy crude oil from unstable
16 foreign countries. That of course improves our
17 national security.

18 MS. HOBGOOD: If you could wrap up your
19 comments.

20 ROBERT WILDS: On behalf of the
21 International Union of Operating Engineers and the
22 400,000 members of the Operating Engineers, I
23

1 respectfully request Department of State please
2 approve this permit.

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
4 37.

5 SCOTT BOETTCHER: Thank you. I'm Scott
6 Boettcher, Sand Hills rancher. My grandparents built
7 our ranch up in the Dirty '30s when the Sand Hills
8 were a Great American Desert or a sea of sand. And
9 look at it today with two years of bountiful rains, a
10 little too much at times. It's a flowing sea of
11 grass. This has taken our ranch 80 years to
12 transform and three generations of lots of daylight-
13 to-dark hours, along with disappointments and
14 heartaches.

15 We know Mother Nature can take this all
16 away in a heartbeat with prairie fires, hailstorms,
17 tornadoes, harsh winter blizzards or drought like our
18 neighbors to the south have seen this year.

19 So why would we want to threaten our
20 livelihood with this pipeline? For all the people of
21 this country that don't realize that this big 36-inch
22 pipe buried three to four foot underground, and
23

1 deeper, will not make it safer in our wetlands. It's
2 not just a small eight or ten-inch line, so a spill
3 would be magnified greatly compared to the previous
4 spills in existing pipelines.

5 So how can our educated people in the EPA
6 studies of the Ogallala Aquifer say they couldn't
7 find any problems going through the Sand Hills. You
8 ruin the water in the Sand Hills and you might as
9 well let it go back to the Great American Desert of
10 the '30s. And being good stewards of the land for
11 the last 80 years will be wasted.

12 The Sand Hills are a fragile environment,
13 and man's stupidity can change it back into a desert.
14 Our cattle and wildlife will drink surface water when
15 it's available. They don't always drink at the
16 windmills and stock tanks. And if a spill or the
17 smallest leak happens, and they admit there will be,
18 anything that drinks this surface water can become
19 contaminated.

20 They keep telling us there will be no
21 environmental impact so who do you think was paid off
22 in this study? The people of this state should
23

1 decide where this pipeline goes, not the U.S. State
2 Department. We are the taxpayers who live here, work
3 the land and know what the environmental impact of a
4 spill would be to our land and water.

5 Put this pipeline where the first line
6 went through Nebraska and it will be safer for the
7 people, our cattle industry, wildlife, and our Great
8 American Desert the Sand Hills. Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
11 38.

12 SCOTT RAMSHAW: Good evening, my name's
13 Scott Ramshaw, I'm with the Missouri Iowa Nebraska
14 Kansas pipe trades. We're also affiliated with
15 United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters and
16 Sprinkler Fitters.

17 I'm speaking on behalf of our 13,000
18 members of the main pipe trades. We support the
19 Keystone project. The Keystone pipeline would create
20 approximately 13,000 construction jobs totally, 7,000
21 manufacturing jobs and over 118,000 spinoffs in job-
22 related sectors.

23

1 The project is funded with private sector
2 dollars at no cost to the taxpayers. This billion
3 dollar investment will play an important role in our
4 national security and our national economy. The
5 taxes paid will benefit state, local governments
6 along with school districts and fire districts.

7 In today's economy, whether nationally,
8 state or local, all of us are connected through the
9 national economy and now the global economy. The
10 U.S. infrastructure is vital to our national welfare,
11 whether a nuclear power plant, whether a coal fire
12 plant, refinery, water treatment facility, sewage
13 treatment plant, ethanol, biodiesel, cellulosic
14 plant, manufacturing plant, shopping mall, grocery
15 store, gas stations, cities and towns, along with
16 agricultural plays an important role in our everyday
17 lives.

18 These facilities create jobs. All type of
19 energy crosses U.S. every day. Some infrastructure
20 can be seen along highways and roads. Coal, chemical
21 and fuels along with agriculture move across America
22 every day, whether highways or rails or along the
23

1 waterways.

2 As much infrastructure that is visible,
3 much infrastructure is not. Many pipelines cross the
4 U.S. every day. Pipelines play an important role in
5 our everyday lives. Let's get America back to work.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
8 39.

9 BRUCE BOETTCHER: Bruce Boettcher, fourth
10 generation rancher, lifelong resident of Sand Hills.
11 I had the privilege of speaking to you in Lincoln and
12 I thank you.

13 I listened to speakers who represent labor
14 unions of 125,000 or more, scientists, presidents,
15 geologists and many others. But I am here as one, a
16 steward of this fragile ecosystem that scientists
17 can't even agree upon the ill effects of this
18 pipeline.

19 To put it in simple terms, it took 40
20 years to determine if you live west of the pipeline
21 you're safe, but if you live east of the pipeline
22 you're screwed. What kind of science is that? The
23

1 EPA and the EIS reports have no wrong findings, so
2 the stewards of this land are the only ones who
3 really understand the water, the land, the soils, the
4 plants, the wildlife and the livelihood which it
5 takes to live here and make a living.

6 We learn sometimes the long way around is
7 the safest and the best bet. Common sense tells us
8 you should not put a toxic pipeline through the heart
9 of the Ogallala Aquifer and expect to sustain life
10 for the next generations.

11 Based on TransCanada's integrity of
12 bribing, soliciting eminent domain and all the other
13 underhandedness, the routing of this pipeline should
14 not be of their choice, nor should it be that of the
15 U.S. Department of State. The EPA has no wrong
16 findings on the proposed routing, and evidently there
17 was no wrong findings on the Keystone 1 pipeline
18 routing.

19 So if the Nebraska Unicameral cannot come
20 to a decision on the routing of this pipeline to a
21 safe place, then the people of Nebraska should be the
22 ones to decide the safe route of this pipeline to
23

1 protect our water. I ask the U.S. Department of
2 State to deny this permit unless TransCanada is
3 willing to go around the Ogallala Aquifer.

4 And I ask TransCanada respectfully to
5 replace this pipeline next to Keystone 1. This is
6 America. This is American soil. We are Americans.
7 This is our water, the American people's water.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
10 40.

11 KEN TRIVELY: Hi, my name's Ken Trively.
12 I'm a member of the Laborer's Local 1140. There will
13 be manufacturing jobs here in the U.S. that will
14 benefit from the construction of the Keystone XL
15 pipeline through the purchase of parts and equipment.

16 So I would like you to endorse this
17 pipeline. Thank you.

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
19 41.

20 ERIN FRANK: Hello, my name's Erin Frank,
21 and my family farms and ranches in Rock County, just
22 down the road from here. I'm proud to say that I'm
23

1 from a farm and ranch in the Sand Hills, and I'm
2 proud to say that I'm going to be moving back before
3 I'm 30. I'm 25 right now.

4 Every time I come home; every time I come
5 home I'm so excited and I'm more happy and more sure
6 of my decision to do that. But now I'm scared and
7 now I'm mad that what am I coming home to. What are
8 we doing to our future generations? And it's not
9 something that I agree with, and it's not something
10 that most of the people in this room agree with.

11 It really is encouraging that so many
12 people came together today in opposition of the
13 pipeline. And I ask you to deny TransCanada's
14 permit.

15 I'm going to read a poem now, it's
16 entitled "Prairie," and it's in Twyla Hansen's book
17 "Potato Soup." Poet and horticulturist Twyla Hansen
18 was raised in Northeast Nebraska on land her
19 grandparents farmed in the late 1800s, as immigrants
20 from Denmark.

21 "Prairie."

22 "There are those who think the prairie
23

1 unimportant, but this place where soil and deep-
2 rooted grasses meet carries on, where hawks loop low
3 into wind without wing beat, where owls hid in
4 cottonwoods, where dickcissels and a swaying
5 landscape cling to seed heads, where the sun to
6 dictate each day rises due east.

7 "Now this remnant, now that, patches here
8 and again across the plains where great animals
9 roamed, bones and blood of ancestors purloined for
10 study, an entire region steeped in history; tribes
11 and traditions and burial sites; hunting grounds and
12 gather places; a civilized nation filled with story
13 and survival dismissed as prehistoric, pre-European,
14 presettlement, preplow, pregrazing, preferences,
15 prerifle.

16 "A stiff breeze further bends the blanched
17 grass blades. Hairy sumac seeds, brown-headed
18 lespedeza, underfoot matted thatch, beyond
19 switchgrass. And overhead big bluestem, the cause of
20 blackbirds tossed into untamed air.

21 "I cannot walk easily over this thick
22 muslin. I am hungry to remain, to get away, thirsty

23

1 that these roots horde all moisture, poor in spite of
2 verdant topsoil. I lie at ground level carrying on,
3 my face not at odds with just now the rising sun."
4 Thank you.

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 42.

6 JERRY SMITHBERG: Hello, my name is Jerry
7 Smithberg from Plattsmouth, Nebraska. I'm a member
8 of the Laborers Local 1140, which covers the state of
9 Nebraska and Western Iowa.

10 A construction job always has a start date
11 and a finish date, so basically you're working
12 yourself out of a job. That's just the nature of the
13 construction industry. But any job, no matter how
14 its length is better than no job at all, especially a
15 job that pays a living wage and allows you to not
16 just get by, but actually allow you to support your
17 household.

18 I believe this nation was built on taking
19 risk. I believe the benefits outweigh the risk.
20 While in Lincoln Tuesday, I heard a lot of good
21 things from the environmentalists. They felt very
22 confident that this is going to be a safe job. Thank
23

1 you.

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
3 43.

4 SUSAN LUEBBE: Hello, my name is Susan
5 Strocka Luebbe. I am a third generation rancher. We
6 raise Black Angus cattle on a ranch where the
7 pipeline is proposed to go, on our land 13 miles
8 southwest of this gym. We have refused to sign.

9 We as Nebraskans know this tar sands
10 pipeline is not in the best interest of the United
11 States, our state of Nebraska or here in Holt County.
12 I ask you, Madame Secretary of State Hillary Clinton,
13 to deny this pipeline permit.

14 We are an agricultural state. We feed the
15 world. And without clean water, our way of life as
16 we know it will cease to exist. Our land will be
17 worthless when any leak occurs. It makes me shudder
18 to think the chemicals mixed with this heavy sands
19 crude would be flowing into our property, our water
20 and destroy our way of life here in the Sand Hills.

21 This is a land where many generations
22 tough it out. The children are worried about their

23

1 future here in Nebraska as they see us adults fight
2 tooth and nail against this foreign corporation that
3 continues to wipe out people's love and trust.

4 There's no economic stimulus or job
5 security in the world worth risking the greatest
6 natural resource in Nebraska. TC infatuates the
7 truth saying this is a good deal. Since when do lies
8 telling us we are one of four left to sign in the
9 state of Nebraska?

10 Threats of eminent domain, where we will
11 have no compensation for our property and no
12 protection. Brainwashing that this is the best
13 pipeline they'll ever build. Forging of an easement
14 contract, showing us a copy of our neighbor's check,
15 scaring cattle through fences with their helicopters,
16 badgering rest home landowner residents with eminent
17 domain and no protection for their ground,
18 constitutes a deal for every man, woman and child
19 from Canada to Texas.

20 It has become painfully aware that you are
21 not a friendly neighbor, Mr. Harper, or could the
22 rush to acquire easements be because your Keystone XL
23

1 permit in Canada ran out last March? Why would it be
2 in the nation's best interest to let TC collapse our
3 local economy, ruin our roads, poison our water and
4 tear up our Sand Hills, and have no long term
5 economic stimulus for Nebraska or its workforce?

6 It is a fact that the first Keystone
7 pipeline had 14 leaks the first year alone. The
8 amount of jobs supposedly touted will not overall
9 stimulate anything long term for our own economy here
10 in the Sand Hills.

11 If you think 20,000 jobs or whatever
12 figure you use for that day, will transform this
13 nation, you TransCanada are full of bull. What we
14 will ruin by building this proposed pipeline, you may
15 as well give it to these union workers from out of
16 state and save everyone the hassle.

17 All that money you have given to charity,
18 ads, the media, busing in workers around, could have
19 been used just a little wiser, like to reroute the
20 pipeline. I guess if you got it, flaunt it should be
21 TransCanada's new motto. Union workers at the
22 Lincoln meeting stated if they were not paid, they

1 would not have come. And more embarrassing is some
2 of them did not even know this pipeline was for oil.
3 They thought it was a gas line.

4 Your lack of PR is astonishing. If you
5 want to stimulate jobs, come to our ranches. You can
6 breathe clean air, drink clean water and eat the best
7 beef in the world, all thanks to what is floating
8 below us. Your jobs will not be temporary like this
9 pipeline is. There are generations of farmers and
10 ranchers just like ours in need of extra hired help.
11 We don't go on our neighbor's ground trespassing
12 because we have billions in our pockets.

13 To the employees of TC. When you knock on
14 heaven's door, do you really think God will say job
15 well done? I'm pretty sure there's a spot reserved
16 for people like you that treat other humans as bad as
17 you have.

18 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can wrap up your
19 comments.

20 SUSAN LUEBBE: Thank you. In closing, I
21 would like to say a huge thank you to Bill McAllister
22 and his staff, to the State Department officials, and

23

1 finally thanks to all you citizens for supporting the
2 landowners in Nebraska. Have a safe trip home.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker 44.

6 ANNA KOEPPEL: Good evening, my name is
7 Anna Koeppel and I'm a member of the laborers union.
8 I came here today from our office in Omaha because I
9 believe it is in our national interest to build this
10 pipeline.

11 Today our greatest need as a country is
12 investment in our economy and our workforce, and the
13 pipeline offers that. I urge you to approve this
14 pipeline. Thank you.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
16 45.

17 ALLAURA LUEBBE: Hi. My name is Allaura
18 Luebbe and I'm 16 years old, and a junior at Stuart
19 Public High School. I live on my family ranch south
20 of Stuart where the proposed pipeline is to go
21 through.

22 I am opposed to this pipeline because to
23

1 me it seems like a sick and twisted deal in the way
2 TransCanada acts and how the pipeline will affect the
3 future of the land, water and its people.

4 I've listened to my mother talk about how
5 a worker from TransCanada came out to our ranch and
6 tried to get my grandfather, Bert Strocka to sign an
7 easement contract. After listening to my mother I
8 thought, I can't believe that someone can lie as much
9 as that TransCanada worker did.

10 Some other things I would like to touch
11 upon is first, the money. A lot of it seems to me
12 that it is about the money. First, I know people
13 obviously work for money, but there are so many other
14 good jobs that deal with taking -- that don't deal
15 with taking people's land and way of life. After
16 all, money doesn't buy anybody's happiness.

17 Second is the lies. I know the difference
18 between right and wrong, and I honestly don't know
19 how people who work and run TransCanada look in the
20 mirror and think what they are doing is right.

21 Third is our water. People live on water
22 and without it we would die. And there's only so

23

1 much fresh water in the world. I have a sister that
2 when she goes to college she takes milk jugs of water
3 back with her.

4 And if the pipeline is put in, when the
5 benzene oil that is mixed with the tar sands leaks,
6 it will cause health problems like cancer.

7 Like many others, I don't bust my butt off
8 to take care of our livestock and land just to have a
9 foreign company come onto my family's ranch and tear
10 it up. I strongly urge you not to let the Keystone
11 pipeline XL come into the U.S. Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
14 46.

15 TERRENCE WHITE: Hello. Please give our
16 regards to Secretary Hillary Clinton, Vice President
17 Biden, and the President. Hi. My name is Terrence
18 White, I'm from Omaha, Nebraska. I am a member of
19 the Laborers Local 1140. Laborers Local 1140 is part
20 of the Midwest Region, Great Plains District Council.
21 This council includes our locals, locals from South
22 Dakota, Iowa, Illinois.

23

1 As the region in the council we stand in
2 solidarity with our fellow brothers and sisters.
3 When fellow laborers need support we come together as
4 one. So I along with my fellow brothers and sisters
5 are here in support of the Keystone XL pipeline.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
8 47.

9 KARL CONNELL: Thank you for coming here
10 to the state of Nebraska to listen to all our
11 concerns. I'm Karl Connell, I live north in Newport,
12 Nebraska, on the Niobrara in Keya Paha County.

13 We have approximately 3,000 feet of the
14 proposed Keystone pipeline that will cross our
15 property. Two different parcels are involved, a
16 parcel in the pasture with water wells and a hay
17 meadow.

18 These parcels have sandy soil. After the
19 topsoil has been removed and stockpiled the sand will
20 be exposed. Wind will cause the sand to blow and
21 erosion will take place, and that will create a
22 blowout.

23

1 My concern is that TransCanada does not
2 have the capability to restore the right-of-way back
3 to preconstruction condition that they have no
4 experience and no how to handle this fragile
5 ecosystem. They have said it will take three to five
6 years. Wrong. It takes decades to heal a blowout,
7 the loss of production of grass and grazing over that
8 time and the expense to restore my property once
9 TransCanada leaves.

10 The 150-degree oil in the pipeline
11 concerns me. The heated soil will probably not let
12 grass grow and thrive like it did before the
13 construction of the pipeline. My water well is
14 within a thousand feet of the right-of-way, this is
15 also of a concern. It is the sole source of water
16 for that pasture. If a leak occurs, my well is
17 contaminated. Drilling a new well would be another
18 expense to me. A leak in the pipe would also
19 contaminate the shallow groundwater with toxic tar
20 sands oil.

21 From my research, I have learned about the
22 tar sands oil. It is a diluted -- is the diluted

23

1 bitumen a safe and secure stream of crude oil? No.

2 This oil contains more acid and sulphur and the

3 chemicals of benzene, arsenic, heavy metals and

4 natural gas condensates than conventional oil does.

5 It's thick and has to be heated to 150 degrees and

6 pressurized up to 1400 pounds to get a flow down the

7 pipe. I don't feel this is safe. It's a big leak

8 waiting to happen.

9 A leak could contaminate the Ogallala

10 Aquifer at any time or place along the route. We

11 can't afford that. It supplies 80 percent of the

12 drinking water in Nebraska, and provides irrigation

13 for farms. And if it is contaminated would be an

14 economic disaster to the State of Nebraska.

15 I don't trust TransCanada. We have been

16 threatened with eminent domain if we don't sign the

17 easement. This is nothing more than theft of my

18 property by a foreign company. Different groups of

19 people have come through our property without

20 permission numerous times doing work for TransCanada,

21 that's trespassing on private property. I feel I've

22 been lied to by TransCanada over and over.

23

1 I don't believe that Keystone XL will
2 lessen our dependency on foreign oil. This is an
3 export pipeline from Alberta, Canada, to Port Arthur,
4 Texas. When the crude oil gets to Texas the crude
5 and all the refined products become an international
6 commodity and goes to the highest bidder, most likely
7 to Europe or Latin American countries.

8 Valero, the key customer for the oil firm
9 Keystone XL, will refine the crude oil and export it
10 in a foreign trade zone.

11 This company's business operates tax-free,
12 no money goes to any U.S. treasury. Most of their
13 refined fuel will never get into the fuel tanks of
14 U.S. vehicles. TransCanada figures for jobs created
15 in Nebraska I feel have been exaggerated. Maybe 200
16 at the most workers will be out of state.

17 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can wrap up your
18 comments.

19 KARL CONNELL: My research has proved to
20 me that the State Department has a conflict of
21 interest with TransCanada and Entrix, which has
22 written all the EIS studies. TransCanada is Entrix's
23

1 main client. The state of Nebraska needs to do their
2 own work. Former campaign manager of Senator Hillary
3 Clinton, Paul Elliott, is now a paid lobbyist for
4 TransCanada. That also spells a conflict of interest
5 to me.

6 Fuel consumption in the United States is
7 due down to production of high mileage vehicles and
8 our slow economy. Our own domestic oil production is
9 booming. We are awash in crude oil, but the price at
10 the pump has not gone down at least, it's not even
11 staying the same or it goes up.

12 What's wrong with this picture?
13 TransCanada has said we need this pipeline for energy
14 security. This is not energy security for the U.S.,
15 but economic security for big oil in Canada and U.S.
16 This pipeline is not in the best interest of the
17 people in Nebraska or the U.S. We don't need the
18 Keystone XL pipeline.

19 I totally oppose the construction of
20 Keystone XL pipeline with its contents of toxic,
21 corrosive tar sands oil, and ask that you deny this
22 permit. Thank you.

23

1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
3 48.

4 DAVE HUTCHINSON: I'm Dave Hutchinson and
5 we have an all-organic ranch, and I'd like to invite
6 anybody with the State Department, if they would walk
7 five miles through the wet areas of this ground, I
8 will cook an all-organic meal for each one of you.

9 Our organic ranch is a family ranch and we
10 raise beef, buffalo, goats. We've also raised
11 organic squash and potatoes. And again, if you just
12 walk through; these engineers and these biologists,
13 these geologists, if they would have walked through
14 this area they would have understood the high water
15 tables, the flow well, the artesian water, the lakes.
16 And when you dig some of this area up you will create
17 more surface water, not less because of the pressure
18 under the ground.

19 And it's not if the pipeline's going to
20 leak, it's when. Our certifier of our organic ranch
21 has notified us that when that leaks, we will lose
22 our certification.

23

1 Not to mention the pollution that will
2 become in the water, that will affect the people in
3 the cities like Omaha, Lincoln, Kansas City, and your
4 smaller cities like Fremont, Columbus, Grand Island
5 and Norfolk. I'm opposed to the route of this
6 Keystone pipeline. Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
9 49.

10 DAVE HUTCHINSON: I'm available for that
11 dinner by the way.

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker number 49.

13 MARILYN LUND: Hello and welcome. I'm
14 Marilyn Lund from Bassett, Nebraska. I'm a farmer
15 rancher's wife, mother of two and grandmother of
16 seven. My concerns are safety and cost.

17 Because the pipeline will carry tar sands
18 crude oil in an abrasive and corrosive mix that
19 requires very high operating temperatures, and much
20 higher pressure than conventional crude, there are
21 great risks of ruptures, corrosion and leaks.

22 This raw heavy crude carries toxins, heavy
23

1 metals including arsenic, benzene and dangerous
2 chemicals which will cause serious health problems
3 for nearby populations if there is a spill or leak
4 into our Ogallala Aquifer. If these poisons get into
5 our aquifer, it could jeopardize Nebraska's drinking
6 water and agricultural and irrigating abilities. The
7 pipeline should not be located close to the Ogallala
8 Aquifer.

9 Another safety concern is the high
10 temperature to transport this heavy crude. The
11 industry defines a high-pressure pipeline as one that
12 operates at over 600 psi. The maximum allowed is
13 1308 psi. TransCanada has asked for a waiver to
14 allow 1,440 pounds per square inch for the Keystone
15 XL pipeline.

16 The United States has developed safety and
17 spill response standards to regulate pipeline
18 transport of conventional crude, not this heavy raw
19 tar sands crude. Without public knowledge or upgrade
20 in safety standards, exports to the United States of
21 this heavy acidic crude have increased fivefold and
22 will be tripled by 2019.

23

1 Also, the TransCanada Keystone pipeline is
2 a seven billion project and we will be paying for it.
3 When TransCanada applied for their pipeline permit at
4 the Canadian National Energy Board, they presented a
5 strategy that basically turns oversupply into
6 undersupply by bypassing Midwest states to ship tar
7 sands crude oil to refineries in Gulf ports, in Texas
8 and export it.

9 As oil imports are shifted from the
10 Midwest to Texas, oil supplies will decline. With an
11 undersupply created in the 15 Midwest states, the
12 seven oil companies and TransCanada will raise oil
13 prices by \$6.55 per barrel, which is a 15 cent per
14 gallon increase.

15 Americans will pay up to four billion more
16 each year for the same Canadian oil we are buying
17 now. Canadian oil producers get huge profit
18 windfalls and the 15 Midwest states get high gas
19 prices.

20 Adding to the route of the Keystone
21 pipeline does not reduce our oil independence. Huge
22 amounts of this refined product will be exported,
23

1 meaning the finished product is not needed here.

2 At present, there is enough pipeline
3 capacity between Canada and the Midwest states to
4 handle whatever Canada might produce, even allowing a
5 huge increase in production.

6 With the estimated 750 jobs in Nebraska,
7 not all are permanent, will that be proportionate to
8 the increase in fuel taxes that will continue for ten
9 years or longer?

10 For these and other critical reasons, the
11 Keystone XL pipeline definitely is not in the public
12 interest. I respectfully request that the Keystone
13 XL pipeline permit be denied.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
16 50. Speaker number 50. Speaker number 51.

17 JO STEC: Good evening. My name is Jo
18 Stec. I'm a fourth generation rancher on a ranch
19 that has been active for 98 years.

20 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can speak into the
21 mic.

22 JO STEC: Start over? Anyway, I'm a
23

1 fourth generation rancher and I'm on a ranch that's
2 been active for 98 years. I live south of Long Pine.
3 I'm a member of Kappa Kappa Iota, which is a national
4 teachers' organization. I am a member of farmer's
5 union, ARCAF and the Independent Cattlemen of
6 Nebraska.

7 On October 23rd of 2010, in North Platte,
8 Nebraska, the ICON organization held its national
9 meeting. We passed resolution number nine for 2010,
10 and I would like to read that to you.

11 "Whereas the TransCanada Keystone XL
12 petroleum pipeline has been routed through the
13 Nebraska Sand Hills and across the Ogallala Aquifer;
14 and whereas the Ogallala Aquifer is the most valuable
15 asset to the economy of Nebraskan people; and whereas
16 the proposed route of the pipeline would endanger the
17 purity of the Ogallala Aquifer in the event of a
18 pipeline default.

19 "Therefore be it resolved ICON opposes the
20 projected route and proposes that the TransCanada
21 Keystone XL petroleum pipeline acquire an alternate
22 route to bypass the Nebraska Sand Hills, the Ogallala
23

1 Aquifer."

2 On a personal note, I would like to add
3 that I realize the Sand Hills ecology is very
4 fragile. The Ogallala Aquifer is priceless for its
5 water that it provides for many states, and I
6 sincerely hope personally that an alternate route can
7 be found. Thank you very much.

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 52.
9 Speaker 52. Speaker 53.

10 FREDERICK PINKLEMAN: I'm Frederick
11 Pinkleman from Wynot, Nebraska, a recovering ex-
12 county commissioner. My third term ended this past
13 January and I didn't refile. I served as a Cedar
14 County Commissioner in 1999 when TransCanada
15 constructed the pipeline through Cedar County.

16 Yesterday Jeff Rowe called and asked if
17 I'd attend this meeting in Atkinson to express my
18 observations after working with TransCanada as they
19 constructed the crude oil pipeline through Cedar
20 County.

21 If my memory serves me right, Jeff was one
22 of the folks from TransCanada that came before the
23

1 board to announce their plans to build a pipeline.

2 They were always courteous and informative, and did
3 what they said they were going to do.

4 Our county attorney drew up a work
5 agreement which addressed liability and damage
6 issues, haul routes and so on. The contractors doing
7 the work were very professional and easy to work
8 with. I was amazed that I didn't receive one
9 constituent complaint as the construction work was
10 being done. If they damaged our roads during wet
11 spells, I'd call and request that they gravel or
12 blade them. And they always performed the needed
13 maintenance. They always made sure that we
14 commissioners had the phone numbers of who to call if
15 we needed to contact them about anything.

16 To sum up my thoughts, I wouldn't have
17 driven 125 miles to come out here today if I weren't
18 convinced that TransCanada is a responsible company
19 doing all that is humanly possible to construct a
20 safe and necessary pipeline. And I would add that
21 I'm in no position to comment on the location of this
22 particular pipeline. Thank you.

23

1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
2 54.

3 MEGAN HARDY: Hello. My name is Megan
4 Hardy from Bellevue, Nebraska. I and my husband are
5 laborers from Local 1140. In our house we get
6 excited when we hear about a construction job
7 starting up. It means a consistent paycheck where we
8 don't have to worry about how we're going to live.

9 Although we know eventually the job will
10 end, we have the hope another job will be ready to
11 start up. So I am here today to support the Keystone
12 XL pipeline project, and the living wage jobs it will
13 create. And I ask that the State Department support
14 this project also. Thank you.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speak number 55.

16 MARTY COBENAIS: Hi. My name's Marty
17 Cobenais, I work with the Indigenous Environment
18 Network out of Bemidji, Minnesota. One of my jobs is
19 to fight this pipeline, but I also work with tribes
20 along the route.

21 And just yesterday at the Great Plains
22 Travel Leaders Association they passed a resolution
23

1 opposing this pipeline, as have numerous other tribes
2 along the route, individual tribes. NCAI, National
3 Congress of American Indians has passed a resolution
4 opposing this pipeline. All the tribes up in Canada
5 have opposed this pipeline, and also the tar sands.

6 (Applause)

7 MARTY COBENAIS: Here are some of my
8 concerns along with my workers and my coworkers. I
9 am going to start with a quote from Crazy Horse.
10 What he says is, "My lands are where my dead lie
11 buried." That is very concerning to us. This goes
12 through cultural historical preservation lands. We
13 have burial sites along this route. We have very
14 high cultural sites along this route.

15 During the Keystone 1 pipeline in Nebraska
16 just south -- when it first crossed into Nebraska,
17 they discovered seven bodies along the pipeline
18 route. This did not stop this pipeline from going
19 through. What they did was they stopped production.
20 They notified the local authorities. They started
21 doing another dig to see how many bodies were there.

22 The problem with that is once you move
23

1 those bones or you tamper with them, it is not a
2 national historical site. Those bodies were removed
3 and those bodies are now sitting in the Nebraska
4 Historical Society. They were non-Native. They were
5 considered to be Caucasian pioneers. But that is how
6 this is handled. It's not right.

7 The second quote I want to do is from Red
8 Cloud, he's a Lakota Sioux. "They made us promises
9 more than I can remember, but they kept only one.
10 They promised to take our land and they did."

11 Why is that important to us? This doesn't
12 go through any Reservation land, but it goes through
13 Nebraska and it goes through farmers, landowners.
14 These people are the modern day Indians. These
15 people their land is being threatened to be taken
16 away and be paid pennies on the dollar for what it's
17 worth. They are our modern day Indians.

18 What this actually comes down to is that
19 this is economic blackmail that goes on through
20 everybody. The city, the counties, the states, the
21 landowners, it's basically TransCanada buying their
22 way through promising jobs, promising road

23

1 improvements, promising schools and everything else.

2 That is the only way they're getting through this.

3 If it was on just merit, they would not get this
4 pipeline.

5 Where this pipeline is made. We have
6 heard from several of the union workers talking about
7 this is going to be American made and everything
8 else. In the public hearing -- the EIS comment
9 hearing in Washington, D.C., the owner of the
10 pipeline company that is putting this together from
11 Arkansas, stated this pipe will be made from Chinese
12 steel again. This is not going to be.

13 So I asked the workers here, why are you
14 not supporting the steel workers unions. Because
15 they are not here. You guys aren't using American
16 steel, so why are you supporting this project? You
17 should be supporting your brothers and sisters.

18 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can wrap up your
19 comments.

20 (Applause)

21 MARTY COBENAIS: One more point really.
22 Nebraskans were out in Washington, D.C., and met with
23

1 Dan McLewen, one of your bosses. In that meeting,
2 Dan McLewen said this oil will not be staying in the
3 United States. This will be shipped overseas. This
4 is a State Department official saying that. That is
5 wrong. Even Secretary Clinton has said that she's
6 inclined to sign off on this.

7 My final statement is going to be this,
8 and it's a quote. "Let's put our minds together and
9 see what life we can make for our children." That
10 was Sitting Bull. This is what we're talking about
11 here. In 150 years, in our traditional cultural
12 thinking, we're supposed to think out 150 years to
13 see what this is supposed to be like and make this
14 decision. In 150 years we won't have a pipeline. We
15 won't have oil. So right now we need to say no to
16 this pipeline. So therefore, I am telling you please
17 do not pass this pipeline.

18 Also, next week we have tribal leadership
19 coming to Washington, D.C., and we are requesting a
20 meeting with Secretary Clinton in person, not with an
21 aide or Dan McLewen. We've already heard from them.
22 We want to meet with Hillary Clinton, herself. Thank
23

1 you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
4 56.

5 DAVID HAYES: Good evening, Madame
6 Chairman. My name is David Hayes. I'm an
7 international representative for the Laborers
8 International Union of North America. I'm a member
9 of Laborers Local 1140 out of Omaha, and a resident
10 of Bellevue, Nebraska.

11 We've heard some testimony today from a
12 variety of people talking about the construction of
13 the pipeline, how it's done first class and safe.
14 Part of my duties have been recently assigned to a
15 committee to update the training manuals for the
16 Laborers International Union, the Pipeline
17 Contractors Association, working with our contractors
18 and with our international unions across the country.

19 One of the things we're focusing on, that
20 we haven't discussed today, is the personal safety of
21 the workers on the construction of the pipeline. And
22 it may be one of the few things that we have in

23

1 common in the room today with our ranchers and the
2 farmers and the construction workers.

3 As OSHA tracks occupations that are
4 dangerous, these are probably the top three
5 occupations in terms of personal safety to the worker
6 on the job.

7 So part of the things we're doing today is
8 updating our manual and not just bringing up the
9 technology that's current for today, but we're also
10 going over every hazard assigned to every task. It's
11 important for us at the end of the day that our
12 workers go home to their families.

13 We support this pipeline and I thank you
14 for the opportunity.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
16 57.

17 FRANK LAMIRE: Thank you very much. My
18 name is Frank Lamire. I'm a member of the Winnebago
19 Tribe of Nebraska, and I reside in South Sioux City.
20 I was born in Nebraska and I plan on dying here.

21 I oppose this pipeline for many reasons,
22 not the least of which is that covenants have been
23

1 made, prior to others coming here, about how we would
2 be good stewards of the land. And I want to share
3 with you that it was the Pawnee, the Ponca, the Otu
4 Missouri, the Omaha, the Dakota and my own Winnebago
5 people who first offered up petitions and prayers to
6 the Creator of all things asking that we be given
7 bountiful harvest, plentiful game, shelter from the
8 elements, and most importantly water. The water that
9 we would need to live, to grow and to flourish.

10 I want to tell you that covenants have
11 been made and covenants must be respected. I would
12 share with the union brethren that I have stood with
13 many times, and I will stand with them again. Our
14 Omaha relatives were here earlier and I've stood with
15 my relatives, the Omahas, and I will stand with them
16 again.

17 But I'll not stand with either tonight
18 because I'm going to stand with my grandchildren, who
19 reside in Oklahoma, half Winnebago, half Comanche,
20 and I want them to live, to grow, to flourish, and to
21 be able to realize those things that I have and
22 others have planned for them.

23

1 I want to share with you that sometimes
2 when we share indigenous thought like this, people do
3 not understand it. You know, they want to look at
4 things in more practical terms. And if I look at
5 this thing real practically, some things concern me
6 that I wasn't even concerned about tonight.

7 But I got here and I heard one of my
8 neighbors from over this part of the state talked
9 about condemnation, talked about the taking of land.
10 The indigenous people of this continent know about
11 condemnation, and know about the taking of lands.
12 And that, in and of itself, causes me to stand
13 continually in opposition to this.

14 These are my neighbors, they are new
15 stewards of the land.

16 (Applause)

17 FRANK LAMIRE: And they must be
18 considered. I would only share with you there are
19 many perspectives here, and I respect all of those as
20 you do. But you know, you're going to go, and I
21 would hope that when you leave here that you would
22 have heard from all of these Nebraskans, and that

23

1 some of them would have touched you in your heart and
2 in your mind, and that you would carry those things
3 to Washington. I fervently ask you that.

4 Two years ago, I testified before the
5 State Department in Albuquerque because they wanted
6 to know the state of the Indian Nations, and they
7 asked me to come over there. And I was very critical
8 and very hopeful. Nothing happened, absolutely
9 nothing happened. And sadly, I don't expect anything
10 to happen here tonight either.

11 But I would beg you to hear us and convey
12 this for us. Thank you very much.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 58.

15 SCOTT GOTSCHALL: My name is Scott
16 Gotschall. Thank you for listening to our comments.

17 I'm sure by now you understand how
18 important the aquifer is to many of us here. The
19 latest environmental review that came out stated that
20 any leak would be limited and minimal.

21 Well, it won't be if you're here. If the
22 leak affects you, it won't be minimal. The cost is

23

1 too great. I ask you to deny the permit so it can be
2 rerouted over in safer soil, away from the aquifer.

3 The benefit of this would be bringing down
4 an amount of oil that is unrefined, and the amount
5 daily is less than a half a percent of what the
6 United States uses in a day. And that's unrefined,
7 and I'm unable to find out much that would actually
8 be of refined crude. Apparently TransCanada doesn't
9 release that, I don't know.

10 For all the more crude oil we'd actually
11 be getting, I don't understand the reason for the
12 potential cost. So let's give these union people a
13 longer pipeline to build, route it around the Sand
14 Hills, deny the permit. Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Again I realize
17 how difficult this is, but if you can hold your
18 applause so we can get to as many people as we can.
19 Thank you.

20 NINA NELSON: I'm Nina Nelson of Clarks,
21 Nebraska, and I'm here to oppose the Keystone XL
22 pipeline. I'm just a concerned citizen in Nebraska.

23

1 I'm not representing any special group.

2 I grew up in a nearby town and I've always
3 loved the Sand Hills country. For you who are
4 visiting here from the East, it may look like a big
5 wide open space that doesn't amount to much. And if
6 you went out west, you'd probably feel that way even
7 more so.

8 But hopefully you also realize today just
9 how healthy our environment is. We have clean air.
10 We have the wonders of nature, and we have clean
11 water. Yes, clean water that keeps all of our lives
12 alive. We can live without oil, but we can't live
13 without water. Not people, not livestock, not
14 plants.

15 I'd have to say that's the one positive
16 thing TransCanada's done for me. As this debate has
17 livened up, and I've been doing a lot of studying, I
18 came to take time to deeply think about the value of
19 water and just how fortunate we are here in Nebraska
20 to have this precious resource. And of course I'm
21 talking about the Ogallala Aquifer, but also the many
22 rivers that cross our great state.

23

1 You heard over and over how vital it is to
2 our ag economy, and I'd like to remind you these
3 ranchers and farmers work hard every day seven days a
4 week, 365 days a year, and they don't have anybody
5 guaranteeing them a pension. But they're here to
6 feed the world.

7 Folks bringing the pipeline, they're quick
8 to point out the growing need for more oil products
9 because of course there are more vehicles. But I'd
10 like to remind you that current projections indicate
11 the world population will double in another ten
12 years. We currently are at seven billion people in
13 this world, and not all of this world is growing
14 food.

15 Now in another perspective, that's a lot
16 of McDonald's hamburgers and Frito-Lay corn chips
17 even just in America. And where do you think these
18 ag products come from? They come from beef and corn
19 right here in Nebraska.

20 If we had an underground source of gold
21 over here in the Sand Hills, at \$1800 an ounce we
22 wouldn't even be having this conversation. You'd be

23

1 doing everything possible to make sure not one ounce
2 was confiscated or wasted.

3 Well, we've got something even more
4 precious, we've got the Ogallala Aquifer. It's one
5 of the largest sources of clean, safe water in the
6 world. So I ask you again to deny this pipeline. We
7 can survive without oil, but we cannot survive
8 without water.

9 (Applause)

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
11 60.

12 K. SHAYMAKER: I also am from this area.
13 I grew up here. I've been up here all my life. I'm
14 a mother, a grandmother, and I would like to put my
15 heart out to the indigenous people who have embraced
16 us today.

17 (Applause)

18 K. SHAYMAKER: The Native people of
19 Alberta are dying. Their children are dying. I've
20 been online, I've seen their videos their children
21 have made. It's called "Keepers of the Water."

22 I hear you, Fort Chippewa children. We
23

1 got to stop tar sands. I applaud our school
2 superintendent, who erected just the 27th, our wind
3 charger here to help alleviate the cost of heating
4 these gymnasiums in which we're gathered today.

5 I urge our country to use wind and solar
6 and renewable energy. As we drive past the ethanol
7 plant, be thankful that we here in this country can
8 grow our fuel. Deny this injustice. My mother has
9 been bullied and been threatened with eminent domain
10 and condemnation, and then stuck with a gag order.

11 This has been three years ago, and just
12 last July I learned about this. I believe that the
13 green gases escaping from Alberta have been the cause
14 of our flooding of the plains. I don't want to sound
15 like a -- I don't know -- excuse me, but I've lived
16 here all my life, and when it clouds up and it rains
17 nine inches of rain out of nowhere, something is
18 going on.

19 I've tried to travel to the East of the
20 United States. I have family in Tennessee, and both
21 times this summer we had to go around Omaha because
22 of all of the flooding. I know the old Sand Hillers

1 know what our climate is like, but the last three
2 years it's been catastrophic, and our Sand Hills
3 cannot withstand the erosion. Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
6 61.

7 AUTUMN LEMMER: Hello. My name is Autumn
8 Lemmer, I'm a junior at West Holt High School. I
9 live 25 miles south of Atkinson and the Keystone
10 pipeline route goes straight through my family's
11 ranch.

12 I am very concerned over the proposed
13 route of the Keystone pipeline across Nebraska. I
14 deeply urge you to stop and consider the implications
15 and environmental impact on the Breadbasket of
16 America.

17 During the building phase it will destroy
18 the valuable grasslands of our state along the route.
19 And more importantly, during a leak or spill.
20 Reaching down deep in the very essence of your own
21 being, you know that it is highly probable that at
22 some point we'll be at the crossroads of devastation
23

1 and destruction.

2 Keystone's track record already shows that
3 it's likely that a spill could tarnish or destroy the
4 entire agricultural industry of Nebraska for
5 generations to come. Keystone takes great pride in
6 itself on the number of jobs it will provide for our
7 state's economy. But at what cost to us later down
8 the line.

9 What happens when the most toxic crude
10 oil, that's not even intended for our state, pollutes
11 our precious Ogallala Aquifer? What will Nebraska do
12 when its agricultural industry can no longer sell
13 their products because the land and water is now
14 tainted with oil.

15 If Keystone insists on crossing Nebraska,
16 wouldn't it make much more sense for them to route
17 the pipeline next to the existing pipeline?

18 I know that when it comes to energy, we
19 need to start making safer decisions that preserve
20 rather than pollute our natural resources. A
21 resource that is contaminated is no longer a use for
22 anyone.

23

1 I personally am not fond of the idea of a
2 foreign oil company planning to use our precious
3 resource as important as water to pump something that
4 will truly not benefit Nebraska. Jobs in Nebraska
5 are something everyone wants, but permanent jobs in
6 Nebraska are driven by agriculture, not by oil.

7 The Ogallala Aquifer is some of the purest
8 and most valuable water in the world. It is known to
9 store water from the Ice Ages, water that is
10 uncontaminated with today's modern waste. The
11 aquifer already carries a load of 85 percent drinking
12 water for Nebraska and roughly 30 percent for
13 irrigation of our grain and livestock industry. Why
14 chance disrupting and polluting one of the most
15 fragile ecosystems in the United States?

16 As Nebraskans we need to stand up and
17 protect our Ogallala Aquifer for future generations.
18 Growing up as generational ranchers in the heartland
19 of the Sand Hills, we know firsthand what treasure
20 is. Please take action in this sensitive matter and
21 preserve Nebraska and all she has to offer. My
22 generation and those that follow will have to grow up

1 and deal with the problems the pipeline creates.

2 I urge you to stand up and protect the
3 Sand Hills and the Ogallala Aquifer. Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
6 62.

7 CATHIE GENUNG: Thank you for the
8 opportunity to be heard. I wish I could use my three
9 minutes to take you outside and breathe the cool Holt
10 County air, listen to the spirits speak in the
11 cottonwood trees, and drink from the artesian wells.
12 But this is for my mom and my sisters.

13 I'm Cathie Genung, resident of Hastings,
14 Nebraska, a 39-year veteran teacher at St. Cecilia
15 High School. My expertise areas are language arts,
16 writing, drama and literature. My degree is from
17 Hastings College, and I have advanced hours from the
18 University of Nebraska and University at Carney.

19 However, I'm more proud to say that my
20 real education began some 60 years ago in a little
21 village 20 miles south in the heart of the Sand
22 Hills. Because of that, I consider myself a fairly

23

1 wise, well-educated woman.

2 Secretary of State Clinton is also a wise,
3 well-educated woman for you see, she knows that it
4 takes a village to raise a child. A village, a
5 family, a ranching, farming community. It's really
6 all the same.

7 I bet you get the drift of where I'm going
8 with this concept. Let me continue. Another oft
9 heard catch phrase is pay it forward. As a child
10 raised on a ranch near Amelia in Holt County,
11 Nebraska, in the '50s and '60s, many of the people
12 out here were also raised and shaped and nurtured by
13 family, friends and neighbors who lived by the
14 concept of paying it forward.

15 I'm proud to say that my family's hundred-
16 year-old ranch first belonged to my grandparents, my
17 parents, now my mother; next, to me, my five sisters
18 and their families, our children and grandchildren.
19 That's a tremendous legacy upon which cannot put a
20 price. A kind of village if you will.

21 Yes, Nebraskans know what it is to be a
22 village and take care of each other. We pay it

23

1 forward. My earliest memories of growing up on a
2 ranch in the Sand Hills include both of these ideals
3 because you see, that's the way of life of the
4 ranchers and farmers in a community where strong-
5 willed men and women are stewards of the land and
6 work and play in what we call God's country.

7 As children we were taught to protect the
8 sacredness of the land and her people, and we
9 continue that stewardship. Each generation creates a
10 well store of wisdom that continues to flow to the
11 next. And that legacy must continue.

12 It would be simply unpardonable to allow
13 the land, water and air of this area destroyed. You
14 see, the ancient sacred ways taught us long before
15 our parents and grandparents did.

16 Please do not stop the flow of Nebraska's
17 precious livelihood and stewardship. Please let this
18 nation's people continue to pay it forward to future
19 generations. Please do stop the TransCanadian XL
20 pipeline's current route through the Sand Hills. I
21 firmly believe that God always pays it forward, and I
22 hope we can do the same. Thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
3 63.

4 ALEXANDRA KERIAKADIS: Today I hoped not
5 to forget my name, Alexandra Keriakadis, formerly of
6 Hay Springs, Nebraska; Sheridan County.

7 I would like to thank the State Department
8 and its representatives for their kind attention. It
9 is truly an honor to be allowed to speak before you.

10 And before I forget this, I would ask your
11 Department to please, please consider denying the
12 permission for this pipeline.

13 Nothing against people who are seeking
14 jobs, I've been seeking one for 11 years. When I
15 find one I'll send up a skyrocket to let you know.
16 In the meantime, I learned something very valuable in
17 my church, and that was to want what you have, do
18 what you can, and be who you are.

19 As TransCanada, I separate that from the
20 people of Canada because I don't like them being
21 demeaned by this Heinz 57 conglomeration of nations
22 who band together for the purpose of expending their
23

1 profits.

2 As Ron Hubbard, known to you as the father
3 of Scientology would say, make money, make more
4 money. Make other people make money for you. Sick,
5 we don't want to go on with this. I applaud your
6 efforts to find work, to better the lives of your
7 families, and I hate seeing you dragged down by being
8 associated with TransCanada, and as well as the
9 nation of Canada and its good people.

10 But as it says in the Bible, you shall
11 know the truth, and the truth will set you free. We
12 must free ourselves from the death-bringing tar sands
13 and the careless illusion that we have even ten years
14 we can waste before global warming costs us our final
15 breath; droughts, hurricanes, floods, fires, record
16 cold. Do what you can, want what you have. Change
17 the world, you can do it.

18 Band together, birds of a feather.
19 Brainstorm. I bet you can come up with ideas that
20 would bend the world back into shape and supply you
21 with jobs. As Al Gore recently initiated the
22 changing of all windows in the Empire State Building,

23

1 created I don't know how many jobs that way, but it
2 saved millions in air-conditioning and heating costs.
3 Look at how bad our infrastructure is all over the
4 United States. How many jobs could be created by
5 righting those wrongs and alleviating those
6 shortcomings.

7 I'm sorry that you good people, hard-
8 working, serious family people, are brought down by
9 TransCanada because as we all know, TransCanada's
10 relationship to the truth is as a vampire's is to
11 sunlight.

12 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can wrap up your
13 comments I'd appreciate it.

14 ALEXANDRA KERIAKADIS: I hope I will be
15 allowed to send on my additional comments to the
16 State Department by mail and spare you. Thank you,
17 good day.

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
19 64.

20 CHARISSE NEWTON: Thank you for letting me
21 be here. My name is Charisse Newton, and like many
22 here I have a small farm. I live in Fort Calhoun,
23

1 and I'm also a member of the Local 1140. And
2 laborers do work on Green projects, and currently we
3 have members working in Iowa on wind turbines, and
4 are doing weatherization training and projects for
5 Western Nebraska at their training facility.

6 We know renewable resources are in our
7 future, but for now we are dependent on oil for our
8 energy needs. So if we are going to get oil, why not
9 get it from our friend and ally? We cannot depend on
10 getting oil from Mexico like they had originally was
11 going to do because they're spending so much money on
12 their battle with the drug cartels.

13 Then you also have to consider all the
14 benefits that the taxes and property taxes that this
15 is going to create, not only for just Nebraska, but
16 for every state that this pipeline goes through, but
17 for the whole United States.

18 So with that, we are all for the pipeline
19 and I hope it passes, and thank you for having me
20 here.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
22 65.

23

1 PATRICIA FULLER: Hi, I'm Patricia Fuller.
2 I'm a member of the Sierra Club. The Keystone
3 pipeline would provide a source of crude oil from a
4 friendly, secure supplier. It would also lock the
5 U.S. into one of the most carbon-intense and
6 polluting fuel sources ever extracted.

7 Tar sands crude is a 22 billion dollar
8 business in Canada. The Canadian Energy Research
9 Institute estimates that these tar sands contain
10 1.7 trillion barrels of heavy crude. Of these they
11 believe they can extract 173 billion barrels that are
12 recoverable.

13 The delay involved in rerouting this
14 pipeline around the Ogallala Aquifer would be very
15 costly to the Canadian industry. The problems with
16 tar sands oil stem from its scale as well as its
17 destructive process necessary to extract, process and
18 deliver its end product.

19 In a permit application by energy giant
20 Shell Oil Company, they described the impact of tar
21 sands strip mining. Effectively, a complete loss of
22 soil and terrain, terrestrial vegetation, wetland,

23

1 porous resources, wildlife biodiversity, and this
2 happens during the entire period of operation.

3 Just real briefly. To produce one barrel
4 of oil requires digging up approximately four tons of
5 earth, requires three barrels of water, and produces
6 two to three times the amount of CO2 than
7 conventional oil does. End products from this
8 extraction create giant tailing ponds that contain
9 cancer-causing chemicals such as mercury, arsenic,
10 benzene and cyanide. Ponds which according to
11 environmental defense leak one billion gallons per
12 year into the watersheds.

13 Doctors have recorded human health
14 problems in First Nations people living downstreams.
15 Studies have showed that increased cancer rates
16 related to hydrocarbons in patients that have
17 leukemia, lymphomas and biliary duct cancers.

18 Hunters have seen changes in their game.
19 Moose with enlarged white spotted livers, fish with
20 numerous deformities, fish that are showing high
21 mercury levels. Canadian ecologists believe that the
22 tar sands development has led to a permanent loss of

23

1 58,000 birds and possibly as many as 400,000. Yet in
2 Canada they dub this as ethical oil.

3 I request that the State Department denies
4 this permit.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
7 66.

8 TIM ROSEBERRY: Hello, my name is Tim
9 Roseberry. I am with the Laborers International
10 Union of North America. I stand in support of the
11 pipeline. Nebraska needs jobs and Nebraska needs
12 oil. To move corn to market Nebraska needs oil. To
13 move cattle to market Nebraska needs oil.

14 Nebraskans need jobs and Nebraskans need
15 oil. I want to thank you for this opportunity.

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
17 67.

18 BEN GOTSCHALL: Hello and thank you for
19 coming to my hometown. My name is Ben Gotschall.
20 I'm a fourth generation rancher from here in the Sand
21 Hills, Holt County. I graduated from high school in
22 this room, up there on that stage where you're

23

1 sitting, as did a lot of people who are in this room
2 right now.

3 I'm here because I believe this proposed
4 pipeline route poses a serious threat risk to the
5 Sand Hills in the Ogallala Aquifer. This pipeline is
6 not in our national interest.

7 Increasing our reliance on foreign oil and
8 sacrificing our rights, our water, our land and our
9 health for a foreign company's profits is not in our
10 national interest.

11 Because the proposed route of this
12 pipeline crosses the Sand Hills, because it crosses
13 the recharge zone of the aquifer, and because
14 TransCanada and Cardno Entrix have been unwilling to
15 consider alternate routes, I have no choice but to
16 oppose this pipeline. I ask that you deny the
17 permit.

18 And I think that a lot of people in here
19 talking about how proposed alternate routes are not
20 preferable. Well, the Keystone alternate corridor
21 Route 2 in the Federal Environmental Impact Statement
22 is 212 miles shorter than the proposed route. It
23

1 follows the existing right-of-way, which it allows
2 for efficiency of safety monitoring. It impacts
3 fewer acres of land and it would affect 19 percent
4 fewer wells. There are also eight other alternative
5 routes that are very poorly designed. So I think
6 that we should look at the one that's the best idea.

7 TransCanada and their supporters say that
8 we who oppose this pipeline are unreasonable,
9 extremist fearmongers. They accuse us of being
10 misguided and of spreading half truths. Well, if we
11 are misguided and spreading half truths, it is
12 because TransCanada has misguided us and has told us
13 only half the truth.

14 (Applause)

15 BEN GOTSCHALL: I defy; I defy
16 TransCanada's paid scientists and contractors to show
17 me one study that has been done on a spill in the
18 Ogallala Aquifer. There is no such study that
19 exists. The study that you're basing your
20 information on was done in Bemidji, Minnesota. And
21 isolated as that spill may be, it is long-lasting.
22 It has been 30 years and that oil and those chemicals

23

1 are still there. And long-lasting spills are just as
2 dangerous as widespread spills.

3 I have been to Marshall, Michigan. I have
4 seen the damage done by the Enbridge diluted bitumen
5 pipeline that happened in July 2010. And I was there
6 a year after that happened and it still wasn't
7 cleaned up. It polluted 40 miles of that watershed.
8 I saw it, I smelled it. I got it on these boots, and
9 it don't wash off. Anyone who says diluted bitumen
10 isn't a threat to water is lying.

11 There are people in Marshall, Michigan,
12 who are sick. There are people in Marshall who are
13 dying from exposure to unknown chemicals. There are
14 people in Marshall who have had dumpsters full of
15 dead birds, semi trailers full of dead animals that
16 were killed by drinking the water. And have seen
17 their neighbors one by one come down with rare
18 disorders and cancers.

19 We need to know what chemicals make up the
20 diluted bitumen. That information is in our national
21 interest, and suppressing it as TransCanada and
22 Entrix have done, is a threat to our national
23

1 security.

2 (Applause)

3 BEN GOTSCHALL: As tragic as that spill
4 was -- as tragic as that spill was and as tragic as
5 the spill in the Yellowstone River was, these provide
6 us with an important opportunity. And they are
7 important because of how environmentally expensive
8 this opportunity is.

9 We have the opportunity to learn about the
10 effects of oil spills and waterways. We have the
11 opportunity to do some serious looking at what
12 happens when this oil and these chemicals get into
13 rivers like the Niobrara, the Elkhorn, the Platte,
14 Holt Creek, and all the other rivers it's going to
15 cross on its way to Texas.

16 There is no reason to rush into building
17 this pipeline when we don't know what can happen to
18 our water and to our people. When TransCanada's paid
19 lobbyists say that this pipeline is safe; when
20 TransCanada's hired experts say there's no threat to
21 the aquifer; when TransCanada's contractor Cardno
22 Entrix says that risks of contamination to the

23

1 aquifer and damage to the Sand Hills is not
2 significant enough to warrant concern; they're saying
3 something else.

4 They're saying that the people here and
5 our basic human rights, and our basic human needs,
6 and our simple way of life, are of no consequence to
7 them.

8 As a citizen of Nebraska and a person from
9 this community who loves this place, as a human
10 being, I resent that statement. I repudiate it for
11 its arrogance. Arrogance based on ignorance is the
12 chief attitude exuded by TransCanada, its
13 representatives and its hired contractors. They say
14 we just fear tactics to fight their so-called facts,
15 facts that have been bought and paid for to be
16 published and played.

17 I think it is TransCanada who is afraid.
18 They are afraid that all the money they have spent on
19 ad campaigns can't buy them truth. They're afraid
20 that all the money they have spent on lobbyists
21 haven't bought them consent. They are afraid because
22 they can't buy our trust and they have done nothing

23

1 to earn it.

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Can you please wrap up your
3 comments.

4 BEN GOTSCHALL: Yes.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Let him speak. Let him
6 speak.

7 BEN GOTSCHALL: They are afraid because we
8 refuse to believe the lie that their profits are more
9 important than our basic human rights.

10 Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Injustice
11 anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." I
12 agree. The water in this aquifer might be important
13 to us, but soon it will be important to the world.

14 (Applause)

15 BEN GOTSCHALL: Thank you. This proposed
16 pipeline is both an injustice and a threat to our
17 water. It is an injustice to the people along its
18 route from First Nations people in Alberta, Canada,
19 whose Athabasca River watershed is being
20 contaminated; to farmers and ranchers here in Holt
21 County, Nebraska, where our Sand Hills would be
22 denuded and polluted.

23

1 All the way down to people living near
2 refineries in Port Arthur, Texas, whose air will be
3 poisoned by the processing of this dirty oil.

4 Speaking of oil, people who say that we
5 are bound to it are wrong. People who said that we
6 need this oil for our economy or it will fail are
7 wrong. People who say that our country cannot change
8 are using the same rhetoric used to justify slavery.
9 Just as slavery built and fueled the economy of the
10 South and gave way to freedom for African Americans;
11 just as the exploitation of workers who built and
12 fueled our industrial economy gave way to
13 unionization and organized labor, so too, will our
14 addiction to foreign oil give way to energy
15 independence.

16 And to quote a Nebraska State Senator who
17 spoke on Tuesday, Tony Fulton, "The path of energy
18 independence does not run through the Sand Hills."
19 You the union workers can help us. You can help us
20 build wind turbines and solar farms, and
21 hydroelectric generators. You can help us retrofit
22 our houses and retrofit our government buildings and
23

1 our office buildings. You can help us build more
2 efficient -- you can help us build more efficient
3 engines. You can help us develop solutions that
4 don't take us steps back in centuries.

5 I oppose the proposed Keystone XL
6 pipeline. It is not in the national interest. Its
7 perceived benefits are based on false assumptions,
8 flawed logic and failed rhetoric.

9 I also oppose the use of third-party
10 contractors hired by the corporation that is under
11 review to write our Federal Environmental Impact
12 Statements. I challenge -- I challenge all
13 information in the environmental impact statement
14 that has been written by former TransCanada
15 employees' representatives and representatives of
16 Cardno Entrix. And I thank you for your time.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Let me make just
19 one quick announcement before Speaker 68. Right
20 after Speaker 68 I'd like to take just a five-minute
21 break for our official reporter who needs to make
22 some adjustments to his equipment. Thank you.

23

1 Speaker 68.

2 RANDY THOMPSON: You want me to go ahead?

3 MS. HOBGOOD: You can go ahead, yes.

4 RANDY THOMPSON: Thank you for being here.

5 My name is Randy Thompson. I'm from Martell,
6 Nebraska. As I was driving into Atkinson this
7 afternoon, I saw something kind of striking to me.
8 The wind was blowing hard and there was an American
9 Flag on the south side of the highway blowing
10 straight out. As I came into town, the highway was
11 lined with American Flags. But you know what, I did
12 not see one Canadian Flag.

13 So why is a foreign corporation in our
14 country, in our state, dictating to us where they're
15 going to put a giant pipeline? Why are we here
16 tonight defending our property, our resources and our
17 water from a foreign corporation that doesn't even
18 have a permit to be operating in this country yet.

19 They have been allowed to bully and
20 intimidate landowners throughout Nebraska and other
21 states, and no one has done anything about it.

22 So I suggest to you that perhaps it's time

23

1 that America quits being a doormat and we get some
2 politicians that actually have a backbone. Thank
3 you.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. We'll take a
6 five-minute break and resume with speaker number 69.

7 (Recess taken)

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Before I ask speaker number
9 69 to come to the microphone. I would just like to
10 remind everyone that we are really going to try to
11 get through as many speakers as we can, and we can
12 only do that if you respect the time and try and hold
13 your applause, and try and be as succinct as
14 possible. I know this is an extremely important
15 issue to everyone, and that's why you're here.

16 And please take into account the fact that
17 you submit your comments in writing. You can
18 certainly leave them here. You can fax them; you can
19 e-mail them to us. And you can just simply say, if
20 you agree with the previous speaker, that you do
21 agree with the previous speaker. You can state your
22 name and then indicate whether or not you support or

23

1 oppose the permit.

2 And with that, let me start with Speaker

3 69. Is speaker number 69 here? Speaker 70. Speaker

4 71.

5 KEN WINSTON: Good evening and thank you

6 for being here in Nebraska. My name's Ken Winston, I

7 work with the Nebraska Sierra Club and I'm a native

8 of the Sand Hills.

9 I guess I wanted to start off by making a

10 quick statement. The Sand Hills are as unique as

11 Yellowstone, but they're far more valuable. And why

12 are they so valuable? First of all, by 2040, the

13 demand for food will double. Seventy percent of the

14 water used for food production -- 70 percent of the

15 water used is used for food production.

16 Nebraska is home to the Water For Food

17 Institute. Their primary area of concern is to

18 produce more water with less food -- more food with

19 less water, excuse me. It's late, I'm tired; it's

20 hot in here.

21 Aquifers all around the world are being

22 depleted, including many of them in the United

23

1 States. One of the few aquifers in the world that
2 has this abundance of water is right here, you're
3 right on top of it, right in Nebraska, in the Sand
4 Hills.

5 We need this water. People all over the
6 world will thank us if this water is preserved. If
7 it's degraded, it will be of no use. This pipeline
8 is a vestige of an energy policy that led to the
9 economic collapse in 2008. We need policies that
10 will take us forward, not backward.

11 One of the things I want to talk about, I
12 want to just run through a few things, and Ben
13 started on this just a few minutes ago. But there
14 have been a lot of things that have been said that
15 we're spreading fears about -- and why are people so
16 afraid about protecting the aquifer.

17 Well, the fears are based on facts. First
18 of all, it's been said that there are oil pipelines
19 through the Ogallala Aquifer. There are no oil
20 pipelines in the Sand Hills. And that is a fact.

21 Secondly, the EPA said that both the draft
22 environmental impact statement and the supplemental
23

1 environmental impact statement are inadequate.

2 Third, there have been 14 leaks on the
3 brand new Keystone 1 pipeline including a 21,000-
4 gallon leak. Some of the pumping stations, we've
5 been told that all the leaks are in pumping stations.
6 Some of the pumping stations are planned to be built
7 in wetlands. Nebraska hydrologist John Gates and
8 Wayne Wahl said that if it does leak, one, it's very
9 likely to reach the aquifer; secondly, the aquifer
10 discharges to the surface in many places so the leak
11 is likely to go much further.

12 In addition, TransCanada had a brand new
13 pipeline explode in Wyoming just this summer. That
14 was also supposed to be state-of-the-art. So we're
15 supposed to trust that.

16 And I believe as had been mentioned,
17 TransCanada has violated Nebraska law by threatening
18 eminent domain without authority.

19 Then I want to end with a couple of
20 quotes. There's a saying, "In the abundance of
21 water, only a fool is thirsty." There's another
22 saying from Abraham Lincoln, "You can fool some of
23

1 the people, but you can't fool all the people all the
2 time." Nebraska people haven't been fooled.

3 We invite the State Department to join in
4 our wisdom and deny this pipeline permit. Thank you.

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 72.

6 PAULA LARSON: I'm Paula Larson. I live
7 in Niobrara, Nebraska. We just went through a lot of
8 situations with water and we're still trying to clean
9 that up.

10 It seemed like maybe we ought to get
11 Mubarak or somebody from Egypt to America, he's
12 unemployed, to show us how to deal with water, with
13 channeling and that sort of things.

14 But other than that, I work with inventors
15 and I worked for a long time. I do inventing, and
16 the greatest part of working with like patent agents
17 was to look over all the old patents when they come
18 in. When an inventor comes in you have to compare
19 his idea at the patent office with other ideas.

20 To see the patents that were awarded to
21 United States through the last, say, hundred years,
22 it just made you feel like part of the country that
23

1 the basis for America was ideas, and was ideas within
2 America. Most of the inventors that came to us were
3 from, you know, our area.

4 Some of the ideas with the inventors we
5 worked with, a fellow from Denmark invented the round
6 swing. The patent agent I worked for invented the
7 round hay bale. He worked on the ideas for the hay
8 bale that's round. The turn signal, dump truck,
9 portable phone, radial tire. We worked with the
10 basic people that brought ideas to America and to the
11 world.

12 A lot of the ideas from America are used
13 in the world. So the inventor and that part of being
14 available is I believe more strategic for the common
15 person to come up with an idea that can benefit a lot
16 of people.

17 I am thoroughly against corporations
18 taking over and doing what I've heard they've been
19 doing in the Sand Hills. I have a confession to
20 make, and I hope I don't get shot going out the door,
21 but my son works for TransCanada. And he's worked
22 for TransCanada 26 years. He's a bigwig. He's a

23

1 project manager. I won't mention his name, but when
2 he started with Enron in Omaha he was 26. He's 50
3 now, he's still working. He's still working for
4 TransCanada.

5 He went to as far as Ottawa, Illinois. He
6 went all over the country. When Enron failed he lost
7 \$500,000. He lost all of his savings with three
8 kids. So the pipeline was tossed around and then it
9 was sold to TransCanada. The pipeline TransCanada
10 took over Enron's leaving. I don't know if everyone
11 knows that.

12 But in Canada, itself -- I work with
13 radionics. I do inventing and I'm doing inventing
14 and working with radionics, which is a science that
15 is not well-known in America. It's actually hidden.
16 The science of energy. And I know you're asking me
17 to leave.

18 I want you to hear an e-mail I got from a
19 friend that works with radionics, a scientist in
20 Canada; in Canada, about the environmental issues in
21 Atkinson. "The Americans, they should be against
22 it." She is from Canada. "They should be against
23

1 it, and I'm glad something is finally being said.

2 There has been massive evidence of problems in

3 Canada, and it is being hushed up.

4 "The Prime Minister is from Alberta, the

5 province with the oil sands, and he is willing to do

6 anything. He has been really terrible for this

7 country. For him, everything is for sale no matter

8 what. No environmental consciousness at all. Keep

9 up the fight, we haven't been successful here. And

10 now everything rests on the protests in America."

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number

12 73. Seventy-four.

13 RON BOUSKA: My name is Ron Bouska. I

14 live in the Sand Hills south of Stuart. In 2004 I

15 had a new well put down on my land, which is

16 approximately one and a half miles northeast of the

17 proposed pumping station south of Stuart.

18 I gave permission to the U.S. Department

19 of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, to test the

20 water quality. They brought out to my place a semi

21 trailer that held a complete lab, where they ran the

22 water for two hours, then they ran purity tests for

23

1 more than eight hours.

2 I'm enclosing a copy. I'll give you a
3 copy of their cover letter, the bulletin explaining
4 the study, a copy of the national drinking water
5 standards and the groundwater quality report of the
6 tests that they ran.

7 This shows that the water in this area is
8 some of the most pure in the nation. This land has
9 been in our family since my grandfather homesteaded
10 it in 1883. For the past 128 years it has always
11 been a priority to use good conservation practices,
12 to protect the fragile sandy loam soil and the
13 plentiful water under it.

14 At the present time, if I want to spray a
15 chemical down to the water's edge of my creek, I have
16 to have a special permit from the EPA to do it. But
17 it appears that TransCanada will be able to bury a
18 pipeline carrying oil and poisonous chemicals such as
19 benzene, a known carcinogen, directly in the
20 groundwater without any state safety regulations or
21 emergency plan in place. The static groundwater
22 level at my place, as shown by the USGS report, is
23

1 six foot seven inches.

2 TransCanada says it will be using all
3 necessary safeguards. Isn't that what BP said before
4 the equipment malfunctioned that resulted in the
5 disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?

6 If it is absolutely necessary for a
7 pipeline to cross our state, in order to protect all
8 users of this irreplaceable natural resource, let it
9 be placed next to the one already in existence where
10 the heavy clay soils could contain a spill without
11 contaminating the water in a large subsoil area.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
15 75.

16 WILLIAM COLLINS: Thank you. My name is
17 William Collins, I'm the son of a district land man
18 who has worked for 50 years for Natural Gas Pipeline
19 of America located north of Beatrice, Nebraska.

20 It is in our national interest and I
21 support this Keystone XL pipeline. We currently
22 export 20 percent -- import 20 percent of our oil

23

1 from Canada, a much more stable source, and it is in
2 the defense of this country much better than
3 importing it from an OPEC nation.

4 The renewable energy sector is not ready
5 to take over for fossil fuels. Solyndra has proven
6 that solar panels bankrupt them. And there's a
7 company in Beatrice known as Dempster's that is being
8 sued by its employees, that makes windmill turbines -
9 - they're being sued by their employees because
10 they're going broke.

11 According to the Lincoln Journal Star,
12 August 19, 2011, the Keystone XL pipeline will
13 generate 468 million dollars in business activity,
14 161 million in tax revenue to the state of Nebraska,
15 5.5 million in the first year.

16 The current Keystone pipeline that goes
17 through Nebraska was just valued at 145 million
18 dollars. In Butler County the valuation of the
19 pipeline and the pump station is 19 million.
20 Assessor Vicki Donahue says the tax on that will be a
21 shot in the arm to their economy.

22 The Dorchester School District
23

1 superintendent, Mitch Kubicek, says that their share
2 of the Saline County's tax revenues could lower
3 property taxes for homeowners and businesses.

4 I'd like to address some of the concerns
5 that I've heard both in Lincoln on Tuesday and here
6 tonight. We all have heard about it's going to
7 contaminate the water in the Ogallala Aquifer. I
8 have a map here. The aquifer is not just some little
9 water hole there. It extends from Wyoming to near
10 the Iowa border.

11 If you plan on moving this pipeline,
12 you're going to have to move this pipeline, the blue
13 line here, near the Iowa border. That's just going
14 to be flat out too expensive and TransCanada is just
15 not going to do it.

16 Also all these red lines that you see here
17 -- these red lines are all the other pipelines that
18 are currently crossing the Ogallala Aquifer. So I'm
19 supposed to believe that one little pipeline up here
20 is going to be as dangerous as all the red lines you
21 see down here combined? Sure.

22 This concept that landowners are being
23

1 bullied. As I mentioned before, my dad worked for a
2 pipeline company. He was a district land man, his
3 job was to acquire right-of-way for pipeline. They
4 pay a fair price of the value. The only time that
5 they ever do an eminent domain is when the property
6 owner's just asking way too much money for it. Then
7 it's to their value to go ahead and do the right of
8 eminent domain.

9 Also, I've been hearing tonight how it's
10 going to scar the land and everything. Pipeline
11 companies, when they put a pipeline through, granted
12 it looks lousy when they're putting it in, but they
13 put the land back to its original condition. You're
14 not even going to know what the pipeline --

15 (Audience interruption)

16 WILLIAM COLLINS: There are 21,000 miles
17 of pipeline in the state of Nebraska. Show me one
18 where you could even know where it is. Thank you.

19 (Audience interruption)

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
21 76. Speaker number 76. Speaker number 77. Seventy-
22 eight?

23

1 KURT ELDER: Thank you. My name is Kurt
2 Elder and I'm a fourth generation Nebraskan. I was
3 born and raised in Chase County. A little bit of my
4 background is I have my education in ag production,
5 ag business, computer systems, community and regional
6 planning, business administration.

7 Anyway, as I prepared to write today's
8 comments, a memory that I hold dear surfaced, and I
9 thought I brought clarity, that being on my fifth
10 birthday my father, a union welder mind you, handed
11 me a plaque that his father handed to him, and it
12 said "Elder." "It was clean the day I took it, make
13 sure it's clean the day you pass it on to your son."

14 He's an honorable man. Along with him, my
15 family, friends and community, I think they raised me
16 pretty well.

17 Of the lessons that I hold onto, the ones
18 I find the most dear and valuable was that the
19 smallest deed, doing the pipeline now, is better than
20 the greatest of intentions, the promise of limited
21 spills and total mitigation and remediation.

22 Even if every inch of weld was x-rayed and
23

1 if every wall test was tested, I still don't have
2 that complete faith in the system. So today I ask
3 you to do the right thing, help us protect that
4 resource that defines us, help us protect that safety
5 which we have shepherded through the generations.
6 Share a message that the salvation of the state is in
7 the watch from the citizens, and we are compassionate
8 citizens. We aren't against jobs, but we are for the
9 protection of people, our livelihoods and our
10 nation's aquifer.

11 So in closing, somebody I hope to see the
12 fifth, the sixth and God willing, the seventh Elder
13 generation -- who knows if that's a good idea -- and
14 I'll let you -- and I know that not only will I pass
15 along cleaning but also hopefully a clean environment
16 and a clean democratic process. Please deny this
17 permit.

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 79.

19 ALLEN SCHREIBER: Good evening, my name is
20 Allen Schreiber. I'm a fourth generation Nebraskan.
21 I majored in geology at the University of Nebraska.
22 I studied the Ogallala Aquifer and Sand Hills

23

1 extensively.

2 I want to start off by saying that any
3 work that was done by the company Entrix, you've got
4 to understand one thing, they are paid by the
5 petroleum companies to give the petroleum companies
6 the results they want. For the State Department to
7 use the same company the petroleum company has used
8 to write their environmental impact statement is
9 dishonest, it calls into question of the integrity of
10 the State Department. It also calls into question
11 the relationship of the State Department and
12 TransCanada.

13 Thank you for the federal Freedom of
14 Information Act we now know exactly what that
15 relationship is between the State Department and
16 TransCanada when a former State Department employee
17 now works as a paid lobbyist for TransCanada; when we
18 now have access to the e-mail exchange back and forth
19 between the State Department and that paid employee
20 of TransCanada coaching TransCanada on exactly how to
21 write their environmental impact statement so it will
22 be approved. That is corruption, plain and simple.

23

1 That ruins the entire American system that
2 we so cherish and love here in the United States, and
3 here in Nebraska. When you have Entrix presenting
4 junk science and repeating over and over again the
5 Ogallala Aquifer is just a layer of sands, gravels
6 and clay stacked up on top of each other, that will
7 not penetrate, bull.

8 They had access to University of
9 Nebraska's geology department's findings over the
10 last 15 years what the actual structure is underneath
11 the Sand Hills is a series of interlocking streams
12 and river beds that were there 30,000 years ago, that
13 were covered by those sand dunes. Once the water
14 reaches the aquifer, it follows those underground
15 streams just like their surface streams.

16 The lie they hear over and over again,
17 they move a foot a day, that's only 365 feet in the
18 earth, bull. It moves miles. It moves miles in a
19 year. Ask the residents of Grand Island, Nebraska.
20 It's taken 31 years of cleanup on the old ammunition
21 plant down there that was approximately four 55-
22 gallon drums of carcinogen toxins. It's gone from

23

1 the northwest side of Grand Island, under the city of
2 Grand Island, to the southeast side of Grand Island.
3 Private wells are not usable for drinking water or
4 anything else right now because of that contamination
5 plume.

6 If this -- go ahead, give me a minute --
7 if this goes and leaks, and it will leak because
8 they've already had 14 leaks in the one petroleum
9 pipeline that exists in Nebraska, Mr. 22,000 miles of
10 pipeline, only one of those pipelines is a petroleum
11 pipeline. The rest carry natural gas, water or
12 refined petroleum products.

13 And while we're on the subject of
14 petroleum products, this mystery of national
15 security, we can't tell you what's in the tar sands
16 oil, bull. Thank you very much for one person who
17 works for Enbridge; who had the conscience of mind;
18 who was cleaning up the mess in Michigan; who was
19 sick and tired of watching his friends get sick that
20 he's cleaned up with while they were wearing
21 protective gear; who's exhibiting the same symptoms
22 as the residents who lived over two miles away from
23

1 that spill site, released a materials safety data
2 sheet that was provided to the cleanup workers by
3 Husky Oil of Canada as to what the contents of what
4 they were cleaning up is.

5 It is not crude oil, it is over half
6 solvent, or almost half solvent. The majority which
7 is benzene, which is on the EPA ban list, five parts
8 per million is a maximum amount allowed in water.
9 The rest of it is xylene and toluene, also known
10 carcinogens. If you want to see what's in that
11 materials data safety sheet, YouTube, check Bold
12 Nebraska site, I posted up there twice.

13 The guy sits there with his camera and
14 flips it page by page so you can read not only what
15 is in that tar sand crude, but also what the
16 detrimental health effects are of exposure to the
17 contents of that tar sand crude. It is poison, plain
18 and simple -- oh, you want to cut me off after two
19 minutes? Thank you very much for another --

20 (Applause)

21 ALLEN SCHREIBER: We are here to find the
22 truth and the truth will come out. That is the whole

23

1 purpose of these hearings, it's to listen to the
2 truth. The truth is plain and simple. The person
3 who wrote up the toxicology report is lying through
4 her teeth. Why? Because she's paid by TransCanada
5 to give TransCanada the results they need to get
6 their permit passed.

7 The geology that we keep listening to
8 about how slow the water moves, how the thin layers -
9 - that's based off of a report that was written by a
10 professor in 1896. I think since then we've been
11 able to find a lot more about what's going on
12 underneath these sand dunes out here that are 300
13 feet thick.

14 Like I said, ground-penetrating radar is a
15 really wonderful thing. So is all the test bores
16 that the University of Nebraska did. Why isn't that
17 data in there? Because the data that we came up with
18 from our great university, the University of
19 Nebraska, was discounted by TransCanada's people as
20 not being beneficial for their cause.

21 Whatever happened to the truth? Whatever
22 happened to the truth in Washington, D.C.? Whatever

23

1 happened to our elected officials and our federal
2 government standing up for the people of the United
3 States; standing up for the citizens of Nebraska;
4 standing up for each and every one of us individuals?

5 If that permit is approved, and when that
6 leaks into the Ogallala Aquifer, it's not going to
7 spread very slowly. It's going to be a mainline
8 injection into the jugular vein of our state. Think
9 about this very carefully. We already have state
10 laws in place that have well field protection zones
11 around the wells of our communities. Why? Because
12 we know how precious our well water is.

13 Now we have an unregulated, unfettered
14 crude oil pipeline full of benzene, toluene and
15 xylene leaking directly into our aquifer. The
16 Keystone 1 has already failed 14 times that we know
17 of. That's what's been reported. That's way above
18 the projected failure rate for the Keystone XL. XL
19 does not stand for extra large, it stands for extra
20 leaky.

21 And interestingly enough, I contacted the
22 Department of Homeland Security and I gave them a

23

1 scenario. I said what if an individual or group of
2 individuals knowingly and willingly create a device
3 that will introduce toxins into a community's water
4 supply, and thereby poison that community. What is
5 that considered by Homeland Security? Is that an act
6 of terrorism? The answer is yes, that is considered
7 an act of terrorism. You are purposely poisoning a
8 population.

9 Think about that for a moment. Think
10 about that for a moment. What are the repercussions?
11 An act of terrorism, what are the penalties for
12 terrorism? Are we going to go to Canada and arrest
13 every single TransCanada official that approved this
14 pipeline, that signed off on the engineering, and try
15 them for terrorism?

16 I know I would. I'd be the first one in
17 line. We as Nebraskans have a golden opportunity --

18 (Audience interruption)

19 ALLEN SCHREIBER: Thank you very much. We
20 as Nebraskans have a golden opportunity. I'm a
21 fourth generation Republican and I stand side by
22 side, shoulder to shoulder with my friend Ben

23

1 Gotschall, a young progressive. Why? Because
2 there's things that are more important than petty
3 party politics.

4 There are things that are called what's
5 right. What's right by the people; what is right for
6 the citizens of the state. I'm fourth generation.
7 My grandmother was born in Ashton, Nebraska, on the
8 edge of the Sand Hills. My roots run deep. As a Boy
9 Scout, I came up here and canoed the Cedar, the Loup;
10 the Middle Loup, and then North Loup, the South Loup,
11 the Niobrara, the Snake, the Wood River. Anything in
12 Nebraska we could put a canoe in, our Scout troop put
13 a canoe in.

14 And guess what we discovered when we were
15 canoeing in the Sand Hills? When you got stuck on a
16 sandbar, you had to be very careful when you hopped
17 out of the canoe for fear that you'd accidentally
18 fall into a spring. When TransCanada's people tell
19 you don't worry about it, the aquifer, you'll never
20 see it, bull.

21 The aquifer is at the surface all over the
22 Sand Hills, and we all know it. Every time we cross

23

1 that bridge on 281 over the Cedar River, where is
2 that water in the Cedar River coming from? It's
3 coming from a spring out of the Ogallala Aquifer.
4 It's being fed by springs in the bed of that river.
5 Why? Because that river is at the intersection point
6 of the Ogallala Aquifer and the surface.

7 Every single river in the Sand Hills is
8 fed by the Ogallala Aquifer. The Platte River, it
9 gains water on the north bank from the Ogallala
10 Aquifer. It loses water on the south bank back into
11 the Ogallala Aquifer. Because why? It intersects
12 the water table. That same Platte River is also the
13 water supply for the city of Lincoln where I live,
14 and for part of Omaha.

15 When there's a spill, and God forbid that
16 spill occurs at the river crossing of Platte River,
17 that plume of contamination will destroy the well
18 field of Lincoln, Nebraska, which sits on an island
19 near Ashton, Nebraska, in the middle of the Platte
20 River. It will also destroy the well field for the
21 city of Omaha.

22 Is TransCanada willing to assume the cost

23

1 of supplying drinking water to those two cities
2 forever? No. Why are we not being able to hold our
3 elected officials to task for not calling a special
4 session? Why is our governor dragging his feet? Why
5 are certain state senators dragging their feet? They
6 say there's no bill in our legislature, bull. It was
7 killed.

8 Three different bills were submitted to
9 the Natural Resource Committee to regulate the
10 TransCanada pipeline, to assign liability for all
11 cleanup costs. Do we want to wind up like the state
12 of Michigan, which right now is in for over 650
13 million dollars in cleanup costs for the Enbridge
14 spill? That is nearly this state's entire annual
15 budget. One spill could easily go to a billion
16 dollars if it's in the wrong place.

17 Are we willing to take that risk as
18 taxpayers in Nebraska because our governor drags his
19 feet and will not do what he's supposed to do, what
20 he's elected to do, which is to represent and protect
21 the citizens of this state? Why was this killed in
22 committee three times, three separate bills? Look at

1 the votes. Look at the party lines. Look how it's
2 split.

3 Look at who financially backs those people
4 who voted against it. It's Americans For Prosperity,
5 and who is their financial backer? The Koch
6 brothers. And what is their share in this? They
7 intend to make tens of billions of dollars refining
8 this oil in their refineries in Texas. They are the
9 ones who are spearheading this whole thing.

10 Start thinking when you sign your ballots
11 and vote, people, and start putting pressure on
12 people like Senator Smith, Senator Larson, and all
13 the others up here in this area who are supposed to
14 be representing you and your interests. Start
15 putting the pressure on them. Start putting the
16 pressure on them. Call that special session. Tell
17 them flat out you don't do it, we're not voting for
18 you next time. You're done. You want to destroy our
19 livelihood, we'll destroy your political career.

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Can you please wrap up your
21 comments.

22 ALLEN SCHREIBER: My fellow citizens of
23

1 Nebraska, thank you very much. Thank you very much
2 for this chance to speak. It's time the truth comes
3 out, people, it's time the truth comes out.

4 The State Department evidently is in bed
5 with TransCanada, because we have, thanks to the
6 federal Freedom of Information Act, the e-mail
7 records that prove it. They coached TransCanada on
8 how to write their environmental impact statement.
9 Who do they use to write the State Department's
10 environmental impact statement? The same people that
11 wrote for TransCanada. Gee, it's like taking
12 Johnny's homework and putting your name on it, and
13 handing it in.

14 The State Department has at its disposal a
15 truly independent source to look at this and write an
16 environmental impact statement. It's called the
17 United States Geological Survey, and it's called the
18 Environmental Protection Agency.

19 It is very interesting how all times when
20 the State Department's EIS came up for review the EPA
21 went thumbs down; it's not complete enough; it's not
22 accurate, look at what's going on. They know better.

23

1 And what happens? They're shoo-shooed and put off
2 the site because it's not the answer the State
3 Department wants. It's not the answer TransCanada
4 wants.

5 Think about that, people, tomorrow
6 morning. Think about that tonight when you go home,
7 and think about that the next time you step into a
8 voting booth. Just because there's an R behind their
9 name does not mean they're representing your best
10 interest. I'm a fourth generation Republican and I
11 ashamed of the Nebraska Republican Party right now
12 for not standing up for Nebraska's citizens, and
13 instead climbing in bed with TransCanada, who already
14 has been caught giving them illegal campaign
15 contributions. Think about that.

16 Our governor and our Attorney General both
17 were caught red-handed with illegal contributions
18 from TransCanada in their coffers. Oh, they gave
19 them back and returned them, but did that do
20 anything? Did it change their mind? No, it did not.
21 Thank you very much.

22 (Applause)

23

1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 81.

2 Speaker 82.

3 (Audience interruption)

4 ANNIE ANDERSON: My name is Annie
5 Anderson, and I am proud to say I was born and raised
6 here in Atkinson, Nebraska. My dad and granddads
7 have both operated cow-calf operations their entire
8 life. My dad has been raising organic beef for 11
9 years.

10 And my dad's business is built upon the
11 principle of beef in its purest form. That is beef
12 that is not only free from hormones and antibiotics,
13 but also chemicals and toxins.

14 I'm here today for many reasons, one being
15 my passion for my dad's organic beef. But most of
16 all, I'm here for my sons. You see, they are the
17 future of America. The land is the future of
18 America, and I would like to see my boys flourish and
19 live on the land for years to come.

20 Like many Nebraskans here today, I am here
21 to defend what TransCanada is willing to jeopardize.
22 TransCanada's solution for temporary jobs should not

23

1 outweigh our entire state's ag industry and the
2 livelihood of many Nebraskans.

3 The pipeline safety is based on "shoulds,"
4 not certainty. We have already witnessed what their
5 "should" philosophy is. The spills in the existing
6 pipelines speak for themselves.

7 This project is advertised as more jobs
8 for Americans and a more convenient source of oil.
9 Why then is the pipeline headed for the Gulf Coast,
10 and how much of that oil is Americans going to get?
11 What jobs -- what about our jobs as farmers and
12 ranchers, they can't sell toxic crops or toxic
13 livestock.

14 Given Keystone's track record, it's very
15 likely that we will have a spill or a constant leak.
16 So how do you clean up an oil leak in the Sand Hills?
17 How do you separate sand, oil and water? The answer
18 is you can't. How do you clean contaminated water?
19 It's not possible.

20 Why should we risk contaminating our land
21 and our water for our future farmers and ranchers,
22 all for the sake of a temporary job solution and
23

1 revenues? If God wanted underground oil in Nebraska,
2 he would have put it here. But instead, He gave us
3 an aquifer, Ogallala Aquifer.

4 Let's respect what so graciously has been
5 given to us. Let's take pride in our land and our
6 water so future generations can continue to prosper
7 from the land like it was intended for.

8 I ask you as a mother, a Nebraskan and an
9 American, please deny this pipeline route. Make your
10 decision based upon long term concerns, not temporary
11 solutions. I thank you and my sons will thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
14 82.

15 Eighty-four. Eighty-five. Eighty-four.

16 EUGENE RAMM: My name is Eugene Ramm and I
17 reside in Atkinson, Nebraska. I would like to thank
18 the U.S. Department of State for providing the
19 opportunity for opponents and supporters to express
20 their views and feelings regarding the proposed
21 Keystone XL pipeline project. My testimony
22 represents no organization or views of anyone other

23

1 than myself.

2 I oppose the Keystone pipeline. First, I
3 understand the nature of pipelining and the desire of
4 union workers for pipeline projects to provide income
5 for themselves and their families. I, myself, at one
6 time belonged to the International Laborers Union,
7 and pipeline, laying 36-inch steel pipeline, natural
8 gas in the mountains of Kentucky.

9 Second, I value the friendship of our
10 Canadian neighbors from the north, becoming well-
11 acquainted with many of their customs and values
12 during the time spent as an exchange student in the
13 Province of Manitoba, near Winnipeg.

14 Last, I am fully aware of the economic
15 impact such a pipeline will provide, at least on a
16 temporary basis, for the state of Nebraska and the
17 other states the pipeline will run through.

18 Yes, there will be some full-time
19 positions created in certain regions based on the
20 completion of the project. The Sand Hills of
21 Nebraska are not only unique to Nebraska and this
22 country, but they are also unique to the world.

23

1 Nowhere in the world is there another
2 formation of Sand Hills with the uniqueness of the
3 available water source just underneath the sand,
4 coupled with the source of water equal to the
5 Ogallala Aquifer. Nowhere else in the world is there
6 a formation of Sand Hills with the diversity of
7 vegetation growing from the sand.

8 The Sand Hills of Nebraska are truly a
9 national treasure that must be protected fully and
10 completely. I and any reasonable person that fully
11 understands what the Sand Hills are, and the water
12 and other resources provided, must question and
13 oppose a project such as the Keystone pipeline.

14 If there could be the 100 percent
15 guarantee that a major or several minor leaks would
16 pose no significant threats or risk, then I could be
17 a supporter of the project. That is not possible, as
18 even the most adamant supporters and those completing
19 the studies and models have to admit there is no 100
20 percent guarantee.

21 Likewise, there has never been an actual
22 case history involving a region exactly as the
23

1 Nebraska Sand Hills. When models fail and studies
2 are found in error, it is always due to something
3 misunderstood or a fault with some component of the
4 model therein.

5 TransCanada vice president Robert Jones
6 cannot guarantee, nor anyone else, that there will be
7 no impact to the water. The Keystone pipeline must
8 be rerouted to insure the maintaining and
9 preservation of the Nebraska Sand Hills and the
10 Ogallala Aquifer. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
13 86. Speaker number 87. Speaker number 85.

14 AMY JONES: I live on a ranch 18 miles
15 southwest of Atkinson, and my name is Amy Jones. I
16 lost my husband four years ago, but I stayed on the
17 ranch by myself. I'm operating it and renting it.

18 The Keystone pipeline is coming through
19 one of my best hay meadows that I have cattywampus
20 across the whole quarter. And the water level is
21 about a foot under there, so the line, the pipe will
22 lay in water.

23

1 Now I have a grandson that's a chemist,
2 and he said with all the heat that that gives off,
3 the pipeline will give off, that the grass will not
4 grow good. So I don't feel we need that either.

5 And I also have never given them any
6 money. I had the gal at my door time and time and
7 time again demanding money, and I asked her what
8 would happen to me if I didn't sign. Well, she said
9 they can take you to court. And I didn't believe her
10 hardly, but I never did sign. And I want my ranch
11 for my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. So I
12 hope that it can be there and be as good a shape as
13 what my husband left it.

14 So therefore, I hope that they get the
15 group together, the governor gets the group together,
16 and will get together and get it going. Not be
17 waiting around until it's too late, so that we can
18 have it go in another direction where the soil is
19 clay instead of sand. Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Eighty-six.
22 Eighty-seven.

23

1 TANNEN DVORAK: I apologize, I'm actually
2 going to begin with something that is not my comment.
3 But earlier, speaker number 30; and I apologize, I
4 did not catch his name, said something that was
5 offensive to me and I think misleading to you when he
6 suggested that rural America is dying and
7 unattractive to young entrepreneurs.

8 I'm very honored to say that I graduated
9 on that stage with 56 very classy people. Many of us
10 left, got educations and worldly experience, and now
11 half of us are back in the Greater Atkinson community
12 raising families and starting businesses.

13 (Applause)

14 TANNEN DVORAK: And I believe that I can
15 speak on behalf of Atkinson when I say that we don't
16 need anyone's help. We just need what we have.

17 Now my comment. I'm Tannen Dvorak, a
18 fifth generation rancher on a 131-year-old ranch in
19 the Sand Hills, and a small business owner with my
20 wife here in Atkinson.

21 In the small slivers of time that I have
22 between ranching, running a small business and
23

1 raising a family, my passion is economics. It was my
2 study and it's what I love. When I examine U.S.
3 History, I can identify many things that led to our
4 greatness and our international relevance.

5 When I make a similar examination of
6 America in the present day, it's my belief that what
7 maintains our relevance in the present and in the
8 future is our food security. I also identified that
9 as part of modern food production, energy is very
10 important. That's one of many reasons why I'm not
11 anti-oil, I'm not antipipeline. To be honest, I'm
12 really not even a not-in-my-backyard-type of guy.

13 What I am is a not-in-our-nation's-
14 Breadbasket-type of guy. That's what this particular
15 niche of the Ogallala Aquifer is. It's what it
16 identifies. That's why I encourage and ask you to
17 please, State Department, deny permission for
18 Keystone XL to come into the United States until
19 further examination is done and a route that goes
20 through a less susceptible portion of the Ogallala
21 Aquifer is presented to you. Thank you.

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number

1 88. Eighty-nine.

2 JAMES LIERMANN: My name is James Ira
3 Liermann, West Holt High class of '86, and a Holt
4 County rancher.

5 For years I lived in Oregon and Louisiana.
6 I've traveled through much of the United States, and
7 several times through Canada. I studied biology,
8 soil science, ecology and related subjects in
9 college. I've worked as a landscaper, tree service
10 worker, longshoreman, electrician, research
11 assistant, as well as other things. So I think I
12 have a pretty broad perspective.

13 I'm now a third generation rancher at our
14 family ranch, but my grandfather's grandfather worked
15 the land at a different homestead in Holt County. So
16 I have deep roots and strong ties to this land, the
17 Sand Hills.

18 I do not think the pipeline is in our best
19 state and national interest. I wish the refined
20 fuel, the end product of the Houston refinery, where
21 this tar is supposed to go, would be slated for
22 domestic use, but I hear it's intended for export, or

23

1 to be put on the international market.

2 If they're going to sell it to the
3 countries besides the U.S., then just have them build
4 a refinery in Canada and truck or pipe it to Montreal
5 or Vancouver, or some other Canadian port city, and
6 they can go from there.

7 Since the fuel is to be put on the
8 international market, I oppose the pipeline, period.
9 In the very least the pipeline should in no way be
10 allowed to cross the Ogallala Aquifer.

11 If you look at a map of the aquifer, it's
12 huge and part of eight states. But the thickest part
13 of the aquifer, the part with the most water, is in
14 the Sand Hills. There's no way a pipeline in any
15 remote way of leaking toxic chemicals should be
16 allowed to be built in the Sand Hills. For that
17 reason alone.

18 Not to mention the danger of nearly
19 inevitable soil erosion of disturbed soil and
20 subsequent loss of productivity from the land.

21 And about the job issue. Nebraska has one
22 of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. I,

23

1 myself, as a rancher, have more work than I can
2 possibly do myself. I'd like to be able to hire
3 somebody to help me, but I can't afford it.

4 The point is we don't need TransCanada's
5 jobs, which are going to be temporary anyway. If
6 this is really about jobs, then route the pipeline a
7 couple of hundred miles to the east over and through
8 clay soil, away from the Sand Hills and our aquifer.
9 That would create extra work, and I'm sure the
10 company could afford it.

11 We need our aquifer. We're not like
12 Oregon here, we don't have watersheds of clear
13 mountain water that we could use to fill our
14 reservoirs. We don't have the mile-wide Mississippi
15 River that runs in our backyard 365 days a year that
16 we could purify and use for drinking water. Not that
17 we would want to because it's a dirty river.

18 But what we do have is the clean Ogallala
19 Aquifer, a reservoir that God put there for us to use
20 responsibly. Having a pipeline that has even a
21 remote chance of leaking is not responsible. Without
22 our aquifer, this area would be the Great American

1 Desert.

2 Please deny this permit and give us enough
3 time to call a special session, and get the
4 regulations in place to protect our land and water.
5 Thank you for your time.

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
7 90. Ninety-one. Ninety-two.

8 JIM LIEWER: Thank you for giving me time
9 to speak here. I'm Jim Liewer, I come from Boyd
10 County. We love our land, we want to protect it. I
11 want to give these people a little encouragement
12 here.

13 We have a nuke dump right beside my house
14 almost. Fellows, it took us 19 years. We defeated
15 it. We put Ben Nelson where he helped us out. You
16 can too. Don't give up.

17 One little thing. I live right along the
18 Niobrara, something that's never come up. The least
19 tern and the piping plover are there right below my
20 house. About a mile from my house runs the Niobrara
21 River. I see them every summer.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

23

1 JIM LIEWER: I see them every summer.

2 They're still there, I'm sure of that.

3 I had to change my whole thing when I
4 listened to all this water. I'd sure love to have a
5 lot of it. It's plentiful over there in Boyd County.

6 And a final note, please don't give up.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
9 93. Ninety-four. Ninety-five.

10 MATTHEW CRONIN: Hello, my name is Matthew
11 Cronin. I was born and raised in Nebraska and I'm a
12 fourth generation Nebraskan.

13 Everything's been said. I just want to
14 reiterate the true national security issue is our
15 fresh water supply. Oil bound for the globalized
16 open market is not in our national interest.
17 Protecting the largest aquifer in a state that is
18 historically challenged by drought is a conservative
19 act of self-preservation.

20 Those willing to compromise it, those are
21 the extremists. We can't risk it, it's not worth it.
22 Please reject this pipeline.

23

1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
3 96. Ninety-seven.

4 VAL NELSON: Good evening. Thank you so
5 much for coming to Nebraska and for hearing our
6 viewpoints on this. You've been getting quite the
7 gamut of opinions from both sides, and it's been
8 running the entire spectrum, that's for sure. So I
9 definitely don't want to just bore you by repeating
10 things that have already been said.

11 But I will say this much. Regardless of
12 what side we're on in this issue, we do share common
13 concerns. We all want clean water. We all love the
14 aquifer. We don't want it contaminated by anything,
15 especially oil; right? Right?

16 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Right.

17 VAL NELSON: Thank you. And that's why
18 it's so important to have this hearing, because
19 there's been some information that just quite frankly
20 isn't correct. TransCanada is putting this pipeline
21 through with 57 regulations mandated by the EPA and
22 other agencies like no other pipeline has before.

23

1 Using three-quarter-inch steel, strong,
2 high tensile reinforced steel encased in a jacket of
3 concrete. And this is a thick jacket. There's
4 virtually no way that this pipeline's going to leak
5 unless some terrorist decides to dig down there and
6 try to blow it up with a nuclear bomb or something,
7 and that's not going to happen. Let's be realistic
8 about this.

9 It's been said that this is a recharge
10 point where the pipelines are going to be going
11 through. Well, that means that the water's flowing
12 down which means contaminate can't go west, you know,
13 it would be going east if anywhere. But that's not
14 going to happen either because there will be no
15 contamination.

16 All the people who have testified against
17 the pipeline would have you think that TransCanada's
18 intent is to bring this pipeline down from Canada,
19 stop it in the Sand Hills and just start pouring oil
20 into the aquifer. That's not the case at all.

21 In fact, the reality is that TransCanada's
22 not a Canadian company as you've been led to believe

1 here. TransCanada is an American company that
2 actually has an office right here in Omaha, Nebraska,
3 that employs 45 people. Half the TransCanada
4 employees are here in the United States with the
5 other half being in Canada. Yet they didn't tell you
6 that part.

7 The reality is this is something that is
8 indeed in our national interest because it is the
9 money that has been going over to these Middle
10 Eastern countries that has put us in jeopardy. We
11 have a flag up here right now as a testimony to what
12 happened on 9/11. That should not have happened if
13 we'd been dependent and been drilling here like we
14 should have been all along taking advantage of our
15 own national resources, and not being so dependent
16 upon foreign oil.

17 It is imperative to this nation's national
18 security that we start exploiting our own resources
19 instead of looking abroad to fulfill what we can do,
20 ourselves. Yes, we want clean water. The
21 TransCanada pipeline is not a threat to the Ogallala
22 Aquifer. Thank you very much.

1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
2 98.

3 SUSAN DUNAVAN: My name is Susan Dunavan.
4 I'm a landowner in York County, Nebraska. I have
5 native pasture that is in the path of the proposed
6 Keystone XL pipeline.

7 The Department of State hearings have been
8 a real education for me. I was told that these
9 meetings were being held so that Nebraska voices
10 could be heard regarding the question is the Keystone
11 XL pipeline in the national interest of the United
12 States.

13 I did not realize that the voices of
14 Nebraskans would be replaced by people who are paid
15 to attend, people paid to testify, and people bused
16 into the state from all over the country.

17 I understand their desire for jobs. I
18 want that for them, too. But I think the voices of
19 our state is what needs to be heard. I am dismayed
20 that people who are paid by TransCanada are able to
21 receive preferential treatment at these hearings.
22 I'm dismayed that these Department of State meetings
23

1 are being run by Cardno Entrix, the professional
2 environmental consulting company, which is a
3 contractor for the pipeline company, itself.

4 I am here not because I was paid. I'm not
5 speaking because I was paid. I was not bused in, and
6 I do not have my expenses paid. I am here because I
7 am concerned about our water supply, the
8 contamination of the aquifer, and the proposed route
9 of the pipeline.

10 I am deeply disturbed that a foreign
11 company can come into our country, into the state of
12 Nebraska and threaten me not just once, but twice
13 with eminent domain condemnation before any permits
14 are issued.

15 (Applause)

16 SUSAN DUNAVAN: Five different land agents
17 have approached us over the past two years to sign
18 easements. We have sent five certified letters to
19 TransCanada, including two to Robert Jones, vice
20 president of TransCanada, that remain unanswered.
21 Each easement that was offered to us raised more
22 questions. We would write another certified letter,

23

1 and it would still not be answered.

2 I do not understand how our friendly
3 neighbor can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars
4 on advertising and newspapers, magazines and
5 television, and does not have the courtesy or the
6 money to answer a landowner's letter.

7 So the question remains is the Keystone XL
8 pipeline in the national interest of the United
9 States. I think all the people testifying today, at
10 least those in red, all agree that please deny the
11 permit to the pipeline. Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 99. One
14 hundred. One-o-one. Speaker 100, you can proceed.

15 JOHN SCHULTE: My name is John Schulte and
16 I'm from Boyd County. I guess 21 years ago I
17 documented the earthquake testing in Boyd County
18 under the low level nuclear active waste deal, and
19 what I did is I put it in the local paper.

20 Plan C, the pipeline by BP is just another
21 attack on the Ogallala Aquifer. And I would have to
22 say that 99 percent of the people here today do not

23

1 know that there's three arches in Nebraska in the
2 Ogallala Aquifer. And these arches are court
3 structures. One is the Cambridge Arch, which goes
4 into Colorado south of Denver. The Chadron Arch,
5 which goes into the Black Hills, and the Suanna Arch,
6 which goes up into the Great Lakes.

7 What we are talking about here is the
8 energy and the movement of it to transmutation. Each
9 one of these arches have had an instrument put on it,
10 in the middle of the Kennedy Basin, and the deepest
11 part of the Ogallala Aquifer at Thedford has a
12 Doppler weather system.

13 These three arches are a major weather
14 maker in nature. Under Plan A, the nuclear waste
15 dump, a thousand gallons of nuclear waste a day would
16 have been put into the Suanna Arch.

17 Under Plan B, by the good old boy from
18 Atkinson, the wind farm north of Stuart, they would
19 have had a ring of electrical energy underground on
20 the Suanna Arch. Under Plan C, the Keystone
21 pipeline, if a leak would occur, it would be a
22 permanently polluted site, which would take years to
23

1 go away.

2 The pipeline will negatate [sic] the power
3 of these three arches because all the power put into
4 it through the heating and pumping of it.

5 The objective here is to get on the Arch
6 and to compromise the Keya Paha, Niobrara, Elkhorn,
7 Loup and the Cedar Rivers in Nebraska. These are the
8 bleed-off or the gravitational field of the Ogallala
9 Aquifer.

10 This is why this international project
11 under the High Frequency Active Aerial Research
12 Project doesn't want to change the route of this
13 pipeline. It wants to control this gravitational
14 field and to manipulate it to its planned project an
15 ionospheric heater under HAARP, just like Plan A and
16 B.

17 Under Plan A, KAOR & Associates (ph)
18 contracted for black-funded money and the Butte mafia
19 on the local level were the contractors for the
20 failed nuke dump to deliver Nebraska into Plan A,
21 which resulted in an 146 million dollar payback on
22 the bribe money.

23

1 This was an attack on our First Amendment
2 rights. The Strategic Armed Forces Services
3 subcommittee, that Ben Nelson is a senator on, was
4 the architect of Plan A. See "Nuclear Nebraska" by
5 Susan Craig in 245. American Ecology, the parent
6 company of U.S. Ecology went up in front of this
7 committee to get the low level radioactive act
8 repealed. This is where the black-funded money came
9 from.

10 The money on this pipeline is coming from
11 the President signed an Executive Order. It's an
12 International Monetary Fund deal. This bribe money
13 carries no IRS obligations or criminal wrongdoings.

14 The main contractors in Boyd County got
15 ten to 20 million dollars of it, and I think John
16 Gruhn even got some of it through his banking ties.

17 Under Plan B they didn't have the backing
18 lined up and Plan B would have not polluted the
19 Ogallala Aquifer because it could have been
20 dismantled. But Plan A would have.

21 Nebraska dropped the ball on wind energy
22 because under the law enacted in 1970, which Nebraska

23

1 says it owns all the water in the state, it should
2 own the energy that these wind farms are getting out
3 of the atmosphere under HAARP.

4 Under Plan C, it is eminent domain rights
5 of the State enacted by international -- attacked by
6 international interests. The state of South Dakota
7 and Kansas have capitulated and South Dakota got 500
8 million from the Keystone.

9 If Nebraska doesn't assert its eminent
10 domain rights, it will also compromise its water
11 rights, and the lobbyists are having a heyday. In
12 the last hearing in Butte, in 1999 they stated that
13 they were going to dewater the nuke dump site. They
14 dewatered the whole Missouri River system. Look at
15 it today. It's flooding.

16 At that time, every river in Texas was
17 running bank full. Today it is the opposite under
18 HAARP. Rosebud Electric in South Dakota maintains a
19 weather control system for HAARP. The drought that
20 is coming here will -- and it started already -- will
21 last until this pipeline is over with. It's not
22 going to go away. It'll be Texas-style drought.

23

1 And under Plan A, for every ten million
2 spent there was a billion dollars worth of damage.
3 Here where every one job is created there will be ten
4 lost through the drought system.

5 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can wrap up your
6 comments.

7 JOHN SCHULTE: One line left. Either we,
8 the people, address the money or it will undress us.
9 It is Americans For Prosperity like People For
10 Progress with richer cost protection.

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 101.

12 WILLIAM PLOCK: Thank you. Thank you,
13 people, for coming up here. We really appreciate
14 that. This is a fine school for this hearing too.

15 I live by York in the town of Fairmont.
16 My grandfather bought the farms in 1929 with the
17 Depression, so my great-grandparents came here, so
18 we're about fourth or fifth generation of farmers in
19 that area.

20 We've had two pipelines from Kansas --
21 from Geneva, Nebraska, all the way to Yankton, South
22 Dakota. They built two pipelines when I was a kid.

23

1 So those two pipelines have been there for 50 years
2 with 50-year-old technology. We've yet to have a
3 leak. We've had a leak at the terminals where
4 they've had loading trucks and stuff. So to me 50-
5 year, with new technology they should be able to
6 monitor these new pipelines.

7 We do need fuel for our national defense
8 and for our farming, since we haven't got any solar
9 tractors yet, wind-powered tractors. I'm waiting for
10 the Sierra Club to invent those yet.

11 But I would like to see this XL pipeline
12 moved to the east where the original pipeline went so
13 they get away from the sand to heavier soils from
14 contaminating the Ogallala Aquifer. Because we
15 irrigate out of that water also, and drink out of it.
16 We have good water there too, and I hate to see it
17 ruined. To get into those heavier soils. We got
18 clay down 300 foot, then that's going to seal up
19 water from going any further down.

20 So thank you for your time.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
22 102.

23

1 JEAN LEWIS: My name is Jean Lewis. I was
2 born and raised in Nebraska, and I've lived here most
3 of my life. Living in other places only made me
4 appreciate Nebraska all the more.

5 I've been photographing Nebraska for 30
6 years. The Sand Hills are the most spectacular
7 landscapes I've ever seen. I'll be brief.

8 This is the way I see it. Corporations
9 are legal entities designed to protect owners and
10 managers from personal liability for their financial
11 or criminal actions. Businesses incorporate to
12 protect the personal assets of the owners.
13 Corporations like Keystone are not like human beings
14 who are usually fair and kind to each other.

15 Corporations are only interested in profit
16 for their owners. They do not follow the Golden
17 Rule. The real people inside corporations lose track
18 of honesty in their quest for profits. They use lies
19 to convince skeptical people. Keystone has spent a
20 lot of money to convince us that the pipeline is safe
21 and necessary for our national economy. That it is
22 patriotic to get oil from our friend Canada.

23

1 But they do not tell us that the tar sands
2 are destined to on the world market, and probably
3 will provide oil for Asia. Keystone originally
4 wanted a pipeline to go west through Canada to the
5 Pacific Ocean in order to ship oil easily to Canada
6 [sic]. But the First Nations in Canada stopped them
7 so they had to reroute through the United States to
8 the Gulf of Mexico and then to Asia by sea.

9 If the oil were actually destined for the
10 United States, the pipeline would not need to go all
11 the way south. There are refineries in 34 states,
12 surely a more central location could be found if the
13 oil were actually meant for us.

14 Why should we in Nebraska take all of the
15 risks for none of the benefits, while a powerful
16 corporation makes even more obscene profits?

17 Please deny the permit to build the
18 pipeline through Nebraska.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker number
21 103.

22 MARY ELLEN MULCAHY: I'm Mary Ellen
23

1 Mulcahy, Greeley, Nebraska. I would like to request
2 two considerations. A, ask for a delay from the
3 federal government to agencies to allow a special
4 session, or for the Nebraska Legislature 2012 to
5 initiate siting regulations, and establishment of a
6 specific committee to put a process in place for
7 regulation of bituminous crude oil pipeline.

8 B. Ask the President of the United States
9 and the Department of State to deny permission to a
10 foreign country to place a bituminous crude oil
11 pipeline on my pasture ground of Valentine soil.

12 After receiving two eminent domain letters
13 from TransCanada, I asked my attorney to prepare a
14 response. The second response from me requested a
15 site change of one mile at an angle under Highway
16 281, to meet and cross into the Nebraska State
17 Education land south of my pasture. My thinking was
18 that the state highway and the Nebraska State
19 Education lands would be better served to receive
20 assistance from TransCanada. The request was denied.

21 The second measure I undertook was to hire
22 a private company to determine the quality of my
23

1 grasses and forbs. To that end, identified were 50
2 species of plants, which will reside in the Bessey
3 Herbarium on the UNL campus from Greeley County. The
4 species had never been identified before as coming
5 from Greeley County.

6 The investigator I quote: "This native
7 prairie is one of the best inventoried in terms of
8 floristic quality of species that are less common and
9 less likely to tolerate disturbances. They are
10 worthy of conservation and have high seed value."

11 I had three or four years ago contacted
12 the SCS office for a review of my pasture prior to
13 the pipeline consideration, and received a very
14 positive report regarding the proper management of
15 the pasture.

16 The pasture has been in my family name
17 since 1950 with my family being in Greeley County
18 since 1901. There is no Nebraska agency for me to
19 visit with, and federal agencies have issued veiled
20 comments that are not to touch issues regarding the
21 XL pipeline.

22 There appears to be no respect for
23

1 individual landowners who have managed the lands for
2 many years. We are to be directed by the federal
3 government and a Nebraska political system which is
4 indecisive on taking action to help agricultural
5 landowners who pay for the taxes to the counties and
6 to the states.

7 So I thank you very much for giving me
8 this time to listen to me.

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 104.
10 One-o-five.

11 LINDA DUCKWORTH: Hello and welcome. I'm
12 Linda Duckworth, president of the League of Women
13 Voters of Nebraska, and I live in Omaha.

14 I'm glad I'm able to be here adding my
15 voice to the many in opposing the current proposal.
16 I'm inspired by the variety of comments today, and I
17 thank all who spoke.

18 At this time I want to concentrate on one
19 word, influence. We all know that money buys
20 influence with elected officials, and a lot of money
21 can buy a lot of influence. But constituents have
22 influence too. You notice that our governor changed
23

1 his tune recently calling on the President and the
2 Secretary of State to deny the permits. His tune
3 didn't change because of money, but because he's been
4 hearing from Nebraskans, lots of it.

5 So I ask Nebraskans to do four things.
6 Number one, contact Governor Heineman by e-mail, call
7 or send a letter to say we need a special session to
8 pass siting legislation.

9 Number two, contact your state senator to
10 say the same thing, special session.

11 Number three, call the White House
12 voicemail and ask the President to deny the permit.
13 The number is 202-456-1111.

14 And number four, ask your friends and
15 relatives in other states to call the President and
16 to contact their members of Congress to also call on
17 the President and the Secretary of State to deny the
18 permit for this current proposal. We need everybody
19 all over to pull for us. That White House voicemail
20 number again is 202-456-1111. Thank you.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 107.
22 One-o-seven.

23

1 MARCEL SUDBECK: My name is Marcel
2 Sudbeck, I'm from Hartington, Nebraska. The first
3 pipeline was built just a few miles west of our town.
4 And at that time, TransCanada had a partnership with
5 Conoco Phillips to build this.

6 However, on August 12, 2009, TransCanada
7 received approval to purchase Conoco Phillips'
8 interest in the project and is now sole owner of the
9 Keystone pipeline system. Therefore, TransCanada is
10 a privately owned foreign company.

11 Now I'd like to address another issue and
12 that's of eminent domain. In 1998 a drug company,
13 Pfizer, built a new plant in New London, Connecticut.
14 To take advantage of new business that the plant
15 might bring in, the City of New London attempted to
16 purchase 115 homes in a nearby area. Fifteen
17 residents resisted so the City used eminent domain
18 and claimed the land.

19 This went to court and in a very
20 controversial decision, five-four, the City of New
21 London prevailed. A group of people who were
22 litigants in this then attempted to lay claim to one
23

1 of the judge's homes. This led to President Bush to
2 issue an Executive Order 13406, which states in part
3 that "eminent domain may not be used for advancing
4 the economic interest of private parties to be given
5 ownership or use of property taken.

6 "Eminent domain can only be used to obtain
7 property for public use, or to advance the economic
8 benefit of the State."

9 We know that this pipeline will not be
10 used for public use, so what are the economic
11 benefits to the State? In 2008, when the first
12 pipeline was being built, gas was 2.09 a gallon.
13 After this pipeline was put into operation, U.S.
14 exports of oil rose to 1.8 million barrels a day.
15 Gas prices in the U.S. rose to 3.79 a gallon.

16 In 2010 Nebraska consumed over 203 million
17 gallons of gas. So this increase in the gas price,
18 just an increase of gas cost Nebraskans over 345
19 million dollars more.

20 An interesting note is that Canada
21 currently imports 58 percent of its own oil needs.
22 Back in 1994, Canada signed a NAFTA agreement with
23

1 the United States, which prohibits Canada from
2 refusing to export oil to the United States.

3 If they cut their exports to the United
4 States, they have to decrease their own personal
5 consumption.

6 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can wrap up your
7 comments.

8 MARCEL SUDBECK: May I make one more
9 closing comment. Back to the Kelo-New London court
10 case, one hundred fifteen houses were destroyed to
11 make way for new tax, increased developments. Twelve
12 years later the judge ran into Suzette Kelo, who was
13 involved in the lawsuit, and apologized to her. The
14 90 acres that was dozed over now sits as an empty
15 lot. No development ever occurred.

16 So I'm asking you to deny this permit for
17 Keystone so you don't have to come back in ten years
18 and apologize to Nebraskans for making the wrong
19 decision. Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 108.

22 RON LIEWER: My name is Ron Liewer. I
23

1 live and work on a ranch here in North Central
2 Nebraska, Keya Paha County. Can you hear me?

3 This proposed pipeline borders my land. I
4 have the world's purest and best water on my land.
5 The Ogallala Aquifer is a national treasure. It is
6 more important than a national park. There are many
7 places in the world that do not have enough water.
8 There are many places where the water is polluted.

9 Most all pipelines sooner or later leak.
10 I urge you to deny the permit for this pipeline.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker 109.

13 RALPH BODE: Ralph Bode, Liberty,
14 Nebraska. I have grassland, and about half a mile of
15 pipeline through my property.

16 I understand the needs up here in the Sand
17 Hills, and how you're concerned with what's happening
18 to your aquifer. My ground is clay. Much of the
19 ground can support a pipeline pretty firmly there,
20 and would through Eastern Nebraska. That Eastern
21 part of Nebraska, a route might be a possibility.
22 Our nation was born on principles of individual

23

1 freedom and liberty, free enterprise, limited
2 government, strong national defense.

3 Maybe we should take a hard look at
4 cutting back on what the EPA can do to us out here,
5 and maybe we should look for drilling for oil in
6 America, in Anwar, in Nebraska, in South Dakota and
7 the Balkan where there's plenty of oil. What's wrong
8 with us around here? Are we going to take this kind
9 of treatment of our land and of our property?

10 (Audience interruption)

11 RALPH BODE: We need to support the
12 pipeline, but maybe an alternative route to the east
13 would be the best choice.

14 You folks up here in the Sand Hills are
15 individualists, and that's what made this nation
16 great. And the rest of us should take note, and
17 maybe we should be looking at the Department of
18 Education and look at how we need to cut back on
19 them, too.

20 I want to wake you folks up so you
21 understand who you need to go see, and that's your
22 representatives. We need to be clear on what we want
23

1 for America in the future. And without being strong
2 and individualistic, we can't have the group think
3 that's going to destroy this country. Do you
4 understand where I'm at?

5 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yes.

6 RALPH BODE: All right. So you see what
7 happened in California with the San Joaquin Valley,
8 they destroyed that. That was the EPA that took that
9 little minnow and saved it from extinction. And with
10 that 80,000 acres they took out of production, they
11 took another 800,000 out, near 950,000 acres in
12 total.

13 I'll tell you how I know, because I
14 contacted a man in Escondido, California, and he told
15 me that it wasn't just 80,000 acres, because they cut
16 down the water to those tree farms and those plants
17 that they had in Southern California where they
18 couldn't raise the plants, and they all died.

19 All those people lost that production.
20 That's not right. So keep in mind we need to take
21 America back and it's going to be up to us because
22 right now we're still a bottom up nation. Even

23

1 though we're experiencing totalitarianism. So I
2 can't tell you more than just wake up, folks, because
3 it's up to us to make a difference. And remember, a
4 course east through Gumbo sounds a little better to
5 me than running it through the aquifer too. I rest
6 my case.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Before I call on
9 Speaker 110, I just want to make a couple of remarks
10 because it's the bewitching hour, it's ten. I'm sure
11 that some of you are wondering how long we're going
12 to go. We want to hear from you. We're here to
13 listen to your views. Many of you have been here for
14 a long time and we want to get to you.

15 One way you can help us is to try and be
16 as succinct as possible. I know that that's
17 difficult. You can submit your comments in writing.
18 You can fax us. You can e-mail us. We will take
19 your comments through October 9th. But I will ask
20 you again to be as succinct as possible, because we
21 would like to hear from all of you.

22 Now we can take a five-minute break if I

23

1 see a show of hands, and then after the five-minute
2 break we can go as long as we can. I think before we
3 end we're going to need a five-minute break. So we
4 can do it now or we can do it a little bit later if
5 you so desire.

6 Let's go with speaker 110. Thank you.

7 Speaker 110. Speaker 111.

8 MIKE FRIEND: Thank you. Ladies and
9 gentlemen, my name is Mike Friend. I'm a former
10 state senator from Northwest Omaha, and I'm now the
11 Director of the Nebraska chapter of the Americans For
12 Prosperity.

13 Just a quick note. It seems like there's
14 a pedigree discussion that's been going on all night.
15 Fourth generation Nebraskan. I've lived in Grand
16 Island, Carney, Nebraska City and Omaha.

17 When my wife was pregnant with my first
18 child I think she threw up in every trash can at the
19 Conestoga Mall so I had to text her when we drove by
20 today. She enjoyed that.

21 I say that not to get a pat on the back.
22 I say that because I'm not from Florida, I'm not from

23

1 Connecticut. I'm a Nebraskan. And I care about this
2 land. I'm a human being that cares what happens to
3 this state.

4 But I also look at facts. I look at
5 economic data. I look at information that's
6 available to me and I make the best decision that I
7 possibly can.

8 Two days ago I said that the safety issue,
9 the energy security and the economic growth that this
10 potential pipeline could provide were enough to sell
11 me. And I still believe that. After the five hours
12 I've spent in this great town, the hospitality that
13 we've received, it's been great. But the bottom line
14 is I can only operate on facts, statistics,
15 information and not emotion. I will not operate on
16 emotion.

17 What I can say too, though, there are
18 legal issues involved. I spent seven years in the
19 Nebraska Legislature. I understand the legislature.
20 Not as well as a guy like Ernie Chambers. Not as
21 well as other people that have spent years and years
22 and years in there, but I do know one thing. This is

1 a federal issue, folks.

2 If they have a special session, you mark
3 my words it's going to cost us a lot of money and the
4 federal government will come back and say wrong. We
5 will dictate to you exactly how it'll happen. All
6 I'm doing is telling you, mark my words.

7 Now all that said, I appreciate the time
8 that I've had up here. I appreciate the time that
9 we've all received to speak and the hospitality when
10 shown. I'll go back to what I said on Tuesday.

11 I believe if you set the emotion aside to
12 the best of your ability, and understand what's
13 exactly trying to be accomplished from an economic
14 standpoint, scientific standpoint and from a legal
15 standpoint, I think maybe we can all come to the
16 determination that this may be the best thing for the
17 state. Thank you.

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker
19 number 112. One-thirteen.

20 DARLENE STARMAN: Thank you. My name is
21 Darlene Starman. I live in Lincoln, Nebraska now,
22 but I grew up on the edge of the Sand Hills about 45
23

1 miles from here.

2 The State Department was responsible for
3 providing us with a detailed environmental evaluation
4 of the Keystone XL pipeline over the last three
5 years. That included supplemental studies to explore
6 concerns raised by the public.

7 I am convinced that this pipeline will be
8 built and subjected to the highest and strictest
9 environmental standards. Thousands of miles of
10 pipeline already crisscross our state, and have been
11 operating without incident for many, many years.

12 Of course we must be mindful of our
13 state's water resources. But I appreciate and trust
14 the many, many safeguards that have been put in place
15 by TransCanada. In fact, it appears that they have
16 gone well over, above and beyond to insure the safety
17 of the aquifer.

18 I ask that you move this project forward
19 and grant the necessary permit to get this pipeline
20 started. Thank you.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 114.
22 One-fifteen. One-sixteen. One-seventeen. One-

23

1 eighteen. One-seventeen.

2 GLEN FLINT: Howdy. My name is Glen Flint,
3 I'm from Springfield, Nebraska. I was born and
4 raised in Alliance, Nebraska. I have aunts and
5 uncles that ranch in the Sand Hills east of there.
6 My in-laws ranch south of here. I enjoy touring the
7 Sand Hills on many of the oil map roads that were
8 installed by the county by spraying oil on the
9 ground. And as far as I know, none of that got into
10 the aquifer. So I think you're worried about nothing
11 here.

12 I'm going to read a letter that was sent
13 to me by Bruce Desottles from Stratton, Nebraska.
14 And I agree with his sentiments.

15 He says, "All the reasons given to oppose
16 the Keystone XL pipeline by such environmental
17 crusaders as the Nebraska Sierra Club, are identical
18 to those cited in the 1970s in opposition to the
19 Alaskan pipeline. All these assertions proved untrue
20 then, and they're just as much hyperbole now.

21 "Petroleum has done the most to improve
22 the American standard of living over the last
23

1 century. Considering the technological advances made
2 by the oil industry, there's no sound reason why
3 petroleum should not be allowed to continue its
4 promise of reliable energy and real economic
5 opportunity for the United States in general and
6 Nebraska in particular.

7 "The Sierra Club states on it Web site,
8 'This proposed route through Nebraska is guaranteed
9 to decimate and destroy a huge amount of fragile,
10 rare habitat that is vulnerable.' Guaranteed. Their
11 logic contends that because something might go wrong,
12 therefore it will go wrong.

13 "Since when do we base our societal
14 decision and infrastructure on Murphy's Law? Safety
15 is a paramount consideration in most any endeavor.
16 But these individuals demand assurances that exceed
17 the bounds of reason, and given a choice they would
18 bring progress to a screeching halt in favor of
19 imagined pristine wilderness that really never
20 existed except in their imagination.

21 "This nation has 170,000 miles of
22 petroleum transmission pipelines which serve as
23

1 primary means of moving crude oil, gasoline, diesel
2 fuel, other petroleum products to consumer markets.

3 "Pipelines are safe, efficient, operate 24
4 hours a day seven days a week. Their operators
5 strive to protect these assets from corrosion,
6 excavation damage and other threats.

7 "They have dramatically improved pipeline
8 safety and substantially reduced both the number and
9 volume of spills. A comparison of three-year spill
10 averages for the periods 1999 to 2001, 2007 to 2009,
11 show a 59 percent decrease in the number of spills
12 per thousand miles of pipeline; 41 percent decrease
13 in the volume spilled per thousand miles of pipeline.

14 "Operator error can lead to events that
15 put stresses on pipelines that significantly exceed
16 the designed parameters, but such events are very
17 rare, generally do not reflect a vulnerability
18 intrinsic to the asset, itself.

19 "According to March 2011 summary, pipeline
20 infrastructure management, managing performance is
21 more important than age."

22 And I quote here, "Industry and service
23

1 providers have developed better diagnostic tools,
2 techniques and materials over time. More
3 importantly, the industry has not developed -- has
4 not only developed ways to maintain the assets above
5 acceptable levels, but has even improved the
6 performance of older assets.

7 "This improvement was made possible by the
8 industry's multibillion dollar integrity management
9 investment, underpinned by regulation since 2001.
10 The integrity management rules were aimed at high
11 consequence areas, high population areas, an area of
12 unusually sensitive ecology, a drinking water supply
13 or commercially navigable waterway.

14 "Pipeline segments that are classified as
15 ones that could affect a high consequence area,
16 constitute about 44 percent of hazardous liquids
17 mileage, subject to the regulations of the U.S.
18 Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous
19 Material Safety Administration.

20 "However, operators inspect and repair
21 more segment miles than the regulations require. A
22 recent 2010 industry survey showed that respondents

23

1 who operate 54 percent of the liquid pipeline miles
2 subject to PHMSA regulation has inspected nearly 90
3 percent of the total pipeline mileage even though the
4 required inspections would have covered only 56
5 percent."

6 MS. HOBGOOD: If you could wrap it up,
7 please.

8 GLEN FLINT: Okay. I'll just say move the
9 XL Keystone pipeline because wasting time and
10 resources to assure a hundred percent guarantee to
11 those who demand perfection may satisfy the followers
12 of Mr. Murphy, but it does nothing to employ American
13 workers nor further the goal of an energy independent
14 United States. And failing such efforts is
15 definitely not in the best interest of Nebraskans.

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 118.
17 One-nineteen. One-twenty.

18 PAUL KIMMONS: My name is Paul Kimmons.
19 I'm an architect from Omaha. I'm for the pipeline.
20 We have a family farm in Phelps County, it's got
21 sandy loam soil, very sandy loam soil. We have a
22 Trailblazer pipeline 30 years ago, not any problems.

23

1 Above it we farm crops, beans, corn,
2 wheat. We also have a wildlife preserve. We also
3 have a grassland. You wouldn't even know it was
4 there, it's been no problem.

5 One of the most important things we have
6 for the future in Nebraska is energy. That's our
7 most important requirement. If we've got enough
8 energy in Nebraska, we can do almost anything. And
9 if we limit our energy, we're causing a problem.

10 Actually it's critical for our future
11 development. It's critical for job growth. And it's
12 critical for national security. It's an unrealistic
13 fear to be worried about a pipeline that's going to
14 leak.

15 Everything we have that we use in our life
16 here in Nebraska has negative parts to it. Driving a
17 car is dangerous, but it gets us where we want to go.
18 We should look at a pipeline in the same way. It's
19 something we can use. It has a few dangerous things
20 about it, but we can control those. We can handle
21 it.

22 Actually our God-given assignment on this
23

1 earth is to develop the resources for the betterment
2 of mankind. And that's why I'm for the pipeline.
3 Thank you.

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 121.
5 One-twenty-two.

6 DOUGLAS LIEWER: Good evening, my name is
7 Douglas Liewer. I'm a graduate of Chadron State
8 College. I majored in business administration,
9 marketing/entrepreneurship and ag business, and
10 graduated in 2010.

11 I'm opposed to the Keystone XL pipeline
12 being built in the United States. Common sense and
13 my Catholic faith tell me that God created the earth.
14 God created human beings to watch over this earth.
15 As human beings, we're to provide stewardship,
16 conservation and protect our land, water, soil and
17 air, and wildlife.

18 When we came from Boyd County to Atkinson,
19 Nebraska, we cross over the Niobrara River, which I
20 enjoy canoeing, fishing and hunting wildlife. We are
21 farmers in Boyd County, Nebraska, and we like to
22 produce beef cattle, sheep, corn and soybeans, oats

23

1 and peas.

2 We provide the safest food in America, and
3 we provide to the world. We also raise chickens that
4 are not factory farmed, they run out and get all of
5 our grasshoppers and bugs. And they are strong.

6 My Uncle Ronnie and Jim Liewer, my dad,
7 also spoke today. When I go out to Ronnie's ranch
8 and drink his water, I don't have to worry about all
9 the contaminants that this tar sands oil will bring
10 to this area. I know I can drink it right out of the
11 well. It's pure and it helps my health, and I don't
12 have to worry about all the chlorine or bacteria
13 that's in there because I know it is safe.

14 I believe in American exceptionalism. I
15 do not need a podium or teleprompter to speak to
16 fellow Nebraskans. Someday I want to be governor of
17 Nebraska, and being governor of Nebraska I will
18 protect this land, protect our landowners, protect
19 our wildlife, and urge Governor Heineman of Nebraska
20 to call a special session and to pass Senator Ken
21 Haar's bill that will be out on Monday.

22 Thank you. And again my name is Douglas

23

1 Liewer from Boyd County. Please deny the permit to
2 TransCanada. Thank you.

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 123.

4 AMY JONES: Good evening. Thank you for
5 coming to Nebraska. First of all, I'm against the XL
6 pipeline. And I am a fourth generation Nebraskan. I
7 grew up in the eastern part of Holt County, had never
8 seen the Sand Hills until I married.

9 I am now in love with the Sand Hills.
10 There's nothing like them. You can drive out here
11 and you can see the shimmering water in the meadows -
12 - it's an awesome place to be.

13 The one thing that I remember so well was
14 about 30 years ago down at Bartlett, and I think I
15 can say this, Peter Kewitt bought some land down
16 there. And they tore it up to plant corn. Within
17 six months, the wheels on the irrigation systems were
18 covered up halfway with sand.

19 That shows us that the Sand Hills do not
20 repair themselves over one winter. Once they're dug
21 up, that's the way they will be. And that's the way
22 the line will be. It isn't going to grow back this

23

1 year or next year. It's going to stay raw sand for
2 quite a while.

3 I am urging Governor Heineman to do the
4 special session. We need that very badly. And the
5 other thing, thanks to our indigenous friends and
6 neighbors, Nebraska I think is the most beautiful
7 state and the most beautiful name of a state in our
8 United States. And it means the land of flat water.

9 (Applause)

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 124.

11 CHRIS REESE: Howdy. My name is Chris
12 Reese, I'm a business representative for Operating
13 Engineers Local 571 for the state of Nebraska.

14 Our local represents roughly 550
15 individuals throughout the state of Nebraska. We
16 have members in about every corner of this great
17 state including the metro areas, the tri-city area,
18 the panhandle and the Sand Hills.

19 Our union supports the TransCanada
20 Keystone XL. Each year our union holds numerous
21 classes to educate our members on pipeline
22 construction and maintenance. Our craftsmen are

23

1 chosen for their quality. Our members, other
2 Nebraskans and TransCanada do not want to see a
3 pipeline that would leak.

4 Our brothers and sisters do not want their
5 backyards ruined. The citizens of Nebraska here in
6 this room do not want to see their land damaged. And
7 TransCanada does not want to see their products lost.

8 Many things I have heard tonight have
9 definitely made me think, and the people here are
10 very passionate. I live just across the border in
11 Iowa where we have the Loess Hills. It's not as
12 delicate as the Sand Hills, yet it can be damaged and
13 it is hard to grow products there.

14 We do have a system that winds up
15 protecting our Loess Hills. And I would hope that if
16 you don't already have it set up here for the Sand
17 Hills, hopefully that the state representatives will
18 hear that and set up a similar system to our Loess
19 Hills.

20 And if the pipeline goes, I would
21 encourage you to pressure your state representatives
22 to use the tax money from that line to protect your
23

1 Sand Hills and repair it when it is needed. Thank
2 you for your time.

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 125.
4 One-twenty-six. One-twenty-seven.

5 MARV FRITZ: Marv Fritz; O'Neill, Nebraska
6 now, but I've lived my entire life probably 30 to 40
7 miles away from this pipeline, most of the time right
8 on it, where their route will be.

9 Everything else has been said 25 times,
10 hit a little bit different angle maybe. From an
11 economic standpoint, I looked around -- I was a
12 freshman in high school, I walked into this building
13 when this building was brand new. I was the first
14 class in there. There was over -- there was about
15 300 kids in that building that year, and it comprised
16 four years. I just talked to the superintendent
17 earlier, before a couple of schools closed, some
18 rural schools closed, you had 350 kids and 13 grades.
19 So the economics is not working for everybody.

20 But I'm also -- I've spent -- I've
21 invested every dime I've ever made in my entire life
22 into a facility in O'Neill, Nebraska that needs clean
23

1 water more than anything on the planet. We grow
2 tomatoes. So that's paramount. It has to be done
3 right.

4 But I also know from -- one of the reasons
5 I put out that effort and I'm very passionate about
6 it is that when I came back -- I lived in Wheeler
7 County, which is still along the route down there,
8 where my farm down there was just a couple of miles
9 from the pipeline.

10 We have the same deal down there. Lose
11 kids, lose kids, we have no -- there's nothing left,
12 nobody's coming back to the county irregardless -- I
13 know some people are but not near enough are -- want
14 to try to build something and it's going to take good
15 water to do that.

16 But we also can't -- I mean not everything
17 that's said on both sides tonight can be true.
18 There's too much -- there's too much opposite. I
19 don't know, I'm not a scientist, but I do know that
20 this is the third time in my life that I've showed up
21 here.

22 In 1981 we had a crowd about this size in
23

1 Bartlett, Nebraska, because we were going to pump the
2 aquifer dry. A few years later, when they found we
3 didn't, the water was staying the same, then they
4 come back at us and said you're going to run --
5 nitrates are going to destroy this country. Now 25
6 years later, the water's the same level it was when
7 we started pumping in 1974. The background and
8 nitrate levels are less than they were when we
9 started pumping in 1974.

10 So we got to sort the facts out from the
11 hyperbole, but it doesn't make sense to me either
12 than you got the thing -- I mean you're right on the
13 edge of the aquifer -- you could move this thing 60
14 miles east and get away from 90 percent of your
15 problems. You move highways for a dung beetle. It
16 would seem like it wouldn't make that much effort to
17 move a pipeline a few miles.

18 I'm for the pipeline. I think we need the
19 economic development. I just don't think we need it
20 maybe over the best part of the aquifer.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Before I call
22 on Speaker 128, if we can take just a five-minute
23

1 break and I promise you it will be just five minutes.

2 Thank you.

3 (Recess taken)

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker number 128.

5 TOM LIEWER: Hi. My name is Tom Liewer.

6 I'm from Butte, Nebraska. I've live by the Niobrara
7 River, and I've lived there all my life, for 34
8 years.

9 I grew up in fear because of the threat of
10 the nuclear waste dump that was for Boyd County, and
11 this pipeline sounds like fear to me, too. Because
12 when it leaks, it's going to leak into our water and
13 could probably -- will probably kill a lot of our
14 fish and birds and our cattle, and like that.

15 I'm really blessed to be here, because I
16 am a survivor of -- I survived from suicide, because
17 of fears of just really bad things happening. I'm
18 glad I made it here. And my dad and all the law
19 enforcement have really helped me, and especially my
20 counselor.

21 So please stop the pipeline. You know,
22 there is people that could lose their lives over
23

1 this, because of fear and even cancer. Who knows
2 what else they could get? Thank you.

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 129.
4 One-thirty. One-thirty-one.

5 ALAN WINGE: Good evening, my name is Alan
6 Winge. And I'm concerned that this pipeline is -- we
7 can't risk the resources of the land and water in
8 Nebraska for a temporary pipeline -- temporary jobs.
9 These are things that produce for us a long time to
10 come, and have been produced. I know we need the
11 jobs.

12 I know how it is working on these
13 construction jobs that are temporary, and I've been
14 laid off more this year than ever before. So I know
15 it's painful to be out of work and to lose one's
16 income and not knowing the next thing's coming along.

17 I'm a supporter of labor, and I want
18 people to have the good paying jobs they need. But I
19 don't think this is worth the risk. Just talking to
20 a fellow outside in the parking lot out here today,
21 and a few people out there, they supported the
22 pipeline.

23

1 It really raised questions for me. When
2 I'm hearing that there's so much oversight, people
3 watching everything that's being done as it's being
4 built. But then a guy who says he works for
5 TransCanada said, but all of our leaks on the
6 Keystone pipeline were from these valves and pump
7 stations and whatnot, where it was a nonunion crew,
8 and it's because of shoddy workmanship, whatnot.

9 So I'm wondering where was that oversight
10 then? Where were all those people watching then,
11 because he's saying it cost them all this money to
12 fix all this stuff from shoddy workmanship. So now I
13 guess they're talking about all these safeguards and
14 it can't leak.

15 Well, I hope they're right, but I don't
16 think it's worth taking a chance with these valuable
17 resources, so I'm asking you to deny the permit.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. Speaker 133.
20 One-thirty-four.

21 AUTUMN LEMMER: Hello. Thank you again
22 for letting me speak in front of you and for being
23

1 here in Nebraska, and allowing us to speak for you.

2 I have a couple of comments and then a
3 short story that I'm going to lead into for you guys.

4 I guess most of it is led by the gentleman
5 who spoke not too long ago before he left, and said
6 that we were expecting perfection. That's kind of
7 striving my comments right now.

8 One thing I would like to say, the sea of
9 red that you still see here and the people that are
10 here from Nebraska are not what you guys in D.C.
11 would normally think of when you think of activists.
12 Most of these people in here have never sat on a
13 rally line, held a picket sign, or even thought about
14 speaking out.

15 The one reason they're here is because
16 this issue affects them more than any other job might
17 possibly affect them. And I say that, I know we need
18 jobs. I'm also a counsel coordinator for Move On,
19 which is a national organization. The last year and
20 a half I've been having rallies for union and labor
21 workers on jobs.

22 This is the first time I found myself on
23

1 opposite sides of the fence. And I've had plenty of
2 talks, and they're very -- for the most part they're
3 very nice. But it's difficult for me when I know we
4 all need jobs. But to me personally this was not a
5 job fight I was willing to take on, and that's why I
6 am on the side that I am.

7 Now for the background of the activism. A
8 couple of weeks, actually a month ago I was fortunate
9 to meet a landowner from Texas, a wonderful woman who
10 shares my mother's name of Eleanor, who was 77 years
11 old. She has ridden a bus up to Nebraska on her way
12 to D.C. to protest. And she was extremely excited
13 that she was going to be arrested for her first time
14 at 77 years old, fighting for her land and water.

15 I, myself, was approached before I met her
16 and was given that opportunity to go to D.C. and take
17 a chance of being arrested, myself. I'd never been
18 arrested before in my life, and I jumped at the
19 chance.

20 I knew that that would be something that I
21 could tell my children and my grandchildren and be
22 proud. Yes, grandma got arrested, but she did it

23

1 fighting for Nebraska and Nebraska's land.

2 So that woman, going to D.C. so empowered
3 at what she was doing, and me knowing I was doing the
4 same thing, so that when I am 77 I can pass down that
5 same fight that we have for our land.

6 That stretches all the way along from
7 Canada down to Texas and all of the states, and
8 especially here in Nebraska. Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. One-thirty-five.
11 One-thirty-six. One-thirty-seven. One-thirty-eight.

12 JULIE BECKER OWENS: Thank you very much,
13 ma'am and sir, for sticking with us this long. We
14 appreciate it. I am not a landowner in Sand Hills.
15 I live here. My husband and I -- I'm going to take a
16 little different tack here if I may.

17 My husband and I have been urged all of
18 our lives. We have paid 30 percent of our earnings
19 to the government always without question. He pays
20 30 percent, I pay 30 percent. We both work. We
21 always, always have been that middle class that our
22 government has come to depend on.

23

1 We pay it without question. We pay it
2 happily. We do it because it's our duty and we love
3 to do it, and we're happy to do it. And we've never
4 asked anything, anything from our government until
5 now.

6 We are united in asking -- excuse me, I
7 didn't introduce myself. My name is Julie Becker
8 Owens. We are united in asking that please hear us.
9 We have given and given and given and given, and
10 never asked a thing. And like I said, happy to do
11 it.

12 Please now save the Sand Hills and the
13 aquifer. And there is one other point I'd like to
14 make, and that is, I do think that we haven't talked
15 enough about another issue here. And that is why are
16 we even talking about a pipeline.

17 We need to be talking about alternative
18 sources of energy. You two are both too young to
19 remember World War II, as am I. But as a history
20 buff, I know that when we were challenged this nation
21 was able to come up with some amazing, amazing things
22 that brought us through, through a time of crisis and
23

1 brought us through.

2 I know, I know that if we stop our
3 dependence on oil altogether, which rapes our land,
4 that we could come up with solutions for better cars
5 and better energy.

6 And if you say no to this pipeline, you're
7 sending a message back to Washington for us that says
8 come on, we're Americans, let's think of better ways.
9 So thank you. I am a strong supporter of our
10 government, as is my husband, and please take this
11 message to Madame Clinton and to my President, Barack
12 Obama. Thank you very much.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. One-thirty-
15 eight. One-thirty-nine. One-forty. One-forty-one.
16 One-forty-two.

17 SUSAN WATSON: I don't want to spend too
18 much time talking. I'm Susan, you saw me on Tuesday
19 and I wanted to thank you again for coming here and
20 taking this time. These people, all of us really
21 appreciate it.

22 We're here because as you heard, and I'm
23

1 not going to go over all the facts; people have given
2 you all the information. But you can see easily is
3 the people here are concerned. They don't trust this
4 company. They don't trust pipelines not to leak.
5 Even the company, itself, says it's not going to
6 leak. We know it's going to leak.

7 But they trust the system and they trust
8 that you are going to take this information, and
9 you're going to see these people really care and they
10 need to be protected from something they can't
11 protect themselves from, a lot of them. Most of them
12 don't have the money to go fight TransCanada
13 themselves. The government needs to step in and do
14 something here.

15 I just want to say that maybe you could go
16 back and let President Obama know that -- well, we
17 know we're a conservative state, we know where our
18 votes usually land. But maybe, maybe if you said you
19 know what, this isn't a good idea. I don't want to
20 risk the lives of any Americans.

21 He has the right to deny this permit. He
22 can say you know what, instead of getting this
23

1 pipeline, let's get an American company that we can
2 help out with some stimulus money, who can train some
3 of these union workers, who I've always supported by
4 the way, train them to tilt windmills. Get those put
5 out there in the Sand Hills.

6 Even if somebody was inconvenienced by
7 having a windmill on their land, it's not the same as
8 potentially having pipeline on your land that can
9 contaminate their water. It's a complete different
10 thing. Maybe, just maybe, the whole state will turn
11 blue. At least once.

12 There's an election coming up, I'm going
13 to go for anything here. Maybe you could tell him,
14 you know, we need his help. We need to be protected.
15 I could yell and scream and jump up and down, which
16 I'll do to get other people's attention. But I know
17 you guys are listening and you're going to take this
18 back.

19 Thank you for taking the time and please,
20 please make sure they deny this pipeline permit.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23

1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. One-forty-four.
2 One-forty-five. One-forty-six. One-forty-seven.
3 One-forty-eight. One-forty-nine.

4 JAMES WETZEL: My name is James Wetzel,
5 I'm from Atkinson, Nebraska. I would like to make a
6 few points. We've had history here, the Nordin Dam,
7 which spent years being litigated and conflicted.
8 And it created some politicians' careers. Then we
9 had the Central United States low level radioactive
10 waste siting, which likewise probably created the
11 careers of several politicians who would have been
12 unpopular and never got anywhere without them.

13 Here we come again; we've got this
14 pipeline and for some unexplained reason it's
15 something that should have been taken care of by the
16 Nebraska Legislature. The State of Nebraska owns
17 section lines all over the state that have been
18 abandoned. All you have to do is pass a law and say
19 "this is the section line you're going to use" and
20 run it away from whatever this, and the State of
21 Nebrasks would be in complete control.

22 And for example, that's what happens
23

1 anyway; in the Central U.S. low level radioactive
2 waste commission, former Governor Ben Nelson
3 ultimately decided just to breach the contract; cost
4 the state \$145 million-plus, and that appears where
5 we're headed again. A lot of failures to negotiate.

6 We did a few computations. If you carry
7 all this oil by truck instead, 55 million gallons a
8 day or a million barrels a day, it would take 11,000
9 trucks going south, crossing the border; and 11,000
10 trucks going north. 1,250 miles with the current
11 fatality rates, you could expect a fatal collision at
12 least once a day; and with our weather, the
13 probability that we would block traffic by weather
14 for a few days, why we'd probably exceed Interstate
15 405 in Los Angeles on occasion, which carries some
16 30,000 vehicles per hour, day and night, on 10 or 12
17 lanes going each way; and Nebraska roads simply
18 aren't situated to do that.

19 Again, people say that the groundwater in
20 Nebraska is not contaminated. Several years ago I
21 had an occasion to test water, and approximately 80
22 percent of the water including -- one of the highest

1 ones was here in Atkinson, Nebraska, had both lead
2 and arsenic detectable. Most people say if it's
3 detectable, it's too much. O'Neil had a high
4 concentration of arsenic in the water.

5 These are all done through the Natural
6 Resources District in O'Neil; you can find the
7 results there. But lead and arsenic are part of the
8 soil in this area; they're detectable and they are
9 there. It doesn't do us any good to deny it, but
10 they're there before. When you start talking about
11 cancer in Nebraska, why you start looking at lead and
12 arsenic, which is already there, prior to the
13 pipeline. It's unfair to people to say 'this is the
14 purest water in the world;' it isn't.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: If you can wrap up your
16 comments.

17 AMES WETZEL: Most people that follow
18 this, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton know that
19 she wrote her thesis in college on a book written by
20 Saul Olinsky called "Rules for Radicals" and that
21 basically the thesis was that people adopt a
22 movement, stir it up, and get name recognition and

23

1 then go on to politics. And that seems more than
2 anything rational could be what's happening here.

3 The pipeline is probably far safer than
4 trucking. Lyme disease, I usually mention that.
5 It's become an issue with me; my sis got Lyme
6 disease; it's a national epidemic. It is primarily
7 on the coast, but it's out here, too. And once
8 again, the State of Nebraska is ignoring that.

9 These are things that -- for example,
10 probably 80 percent of the U.S. prison population has
11 first been afflicted with Lyme, and then a tiny
12 minority of those afflicted get violent and then they
13 end up in prison. And it's extremely unfair. It's
14 like this pipeline where the government simply
15 refuses to acknowledge the existence of these major
16 problems, which could easily be resolved by the
17 governor, and should have been in the past, for
18 previous problems.

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 JAMES WETZEL: Thank you. Have a good day.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker number 151. One-
22 fifty-two.

23

1 BILL KOENIG: Hello. My name's Bill

2 Koenig and I live down the road in Ewing.

3 I would like to put my support for the
4 pipeline. However, I would like to see it as a
5 reroute. I do a little canoeing on a river, it's a
6 spring-fed river from the Ogallala Aquifer called the
7 Dismal River. And it has a spring there about as
8 wide as your table, and if you try swimming in that
9 you cannot sink because the static water pressure
10 will push you out.

11 And you'll hear that from ranchers in the
12 springtime as the spring/fall comes they'll have what
13 they call boils. And because the water pressure
14 underneath water boils out.

15 Even with a special cement-encased
16 pipeline, it will eventually get pushed out. So
17 that's my main concern about the environmental issue
18 here. Whenever it comes down to us fighting Mother
19 Nature, Mother Nature always wins.

20 I think there's a better route further
21 east where they do not have that static pressure,
22 that would better serve the pipeline. Thank you.

23

1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. One-fifty-three.
3 One-fifty-four. One-fifty-five. One-fifty-six.
4 One-fifty-seven. One-fifty-eight.

5 CAMERON SCHMUCKER: Hello and thank you.
6 My name is Cameron Schmucker. I'm 16 and I'm proud
7 to be at this high school, West Holt in Holt County,
8 Nebraska. And what I love is our nation. Home of
9 the free, land of the brave.

10 But one thing I love more than our nation
11 is our Sand Hills. I love our Sand Hills. This is
12 where I have been born and raised. I have hunted and
13 fished all my life, and I will keep doing that till
14 the day I die. And I have loved it.

15 And my brother Jacob, he was the one that
16 really started me in this, and my other brother and
17 my dad. If he could be here today, he would be
18 telling you the same thing. Save our Sand Hills. He
19 died in Iraq unfortunately in an IED attack. But I
20 know that if he was here, he would say the same words
21 I am, help save the Sand Hills.

22 The one thing I have not understood quite
23

1 yet is how all the politics deal in this, and how
2 crazy some things can be. Because yeah, all the
3 people from Polk County pretty much here, but then
4 you have other people that come in from other places.
5 And the people from the other places, they try to get
6 their word in before the people, who are local, can
7 get their word in.

8 (Applause)

9 CAMERON SCHMUCKER: Which I can't stand
10 because I think this is supposed to be local to the
11 people who are in the Sand Hills, live this every
12 day, and have to put up with if the pipeline leaks,
13 all the oil that's going to come onto our land, get
14 into our streams, our rivers, our ponds where we
15 fish; pollute our animals that we hunt. And all the
16 farmers, ranchers and everything else will be
17 destroyed.

18 I love this small town. I can go
19 anywhere, everybody will wave and say hello. And I
20 can't get that in a big city. If I have to leave
21 this place, I'm going to be forced into living
22 somewhere like living near Omaha where everybody just

23

1 kind of glances at you and turns away.

2 I love this town and I would love to stay
3 in this town. And if I could stay in this town for
4 the rest of my life oil-free, I would love to do
5 that. I would love to say this right now.

6 Reject this pipeline for our nation
7 because all it's going to do is cause oil spills,
8 even if it isn't in the Ogallala Aquifer. You're
9 still going to have oil spills somewhere else, and
10 it's going to ruin all the land.

11 Somehow, in some form or way it will get
12 in all of the rivers and streams. Just like like how
13 the carp have invaded. It's crazy. When people
14 really don't take into consideration how much this
15 pipeline will really affect this nation. There were
16 people saying there's no way it will leak.

17 But if you look at the facts from other
18 pipeline -- it says oh, well, this pipeline spilled
19 maybe two gallons. Then you read another article on
20 the same pipeline and it says it spilled 200 gallons.
21 But really, it doesn't matter how much it spilled, it
22 spilled. Now you're saying that ours isn't going to

23

1 spill?

2 I can look at most any pipeline in this
3 whole nation, and it probably has at least one thing
4 that has probably failed them. And this one, they've
5 already talked about failures and it hasn't even
6 reached Nebraska. I think that is sad and pathetic.

7 Then all these people come in and say that
8 it's going to create jobs for them so that they can
9 feed their family. Well, you know what, if it gets
10 into the water stream you're not going to have any
11 food. So then what?

12 Then you're talking about how they'll
13 raise their kids. Well, then their kids are going to
14 affected by all this. Then their kids are going to
15 have leave.

16 I think it's just crazy. I do not want
17 this pipeline at all.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. HOBGOOD: 159. 160. 161.

20 VOICE: 162?

21 J. ROCK JOHNSON: The sign-up sheet was
22 gone before I was able to sign up. I can be reached

23

1 through fieldsurvey@earthlink.net I drove hours to
2 get here. It's now past my bedtime. But two weeks
3 ago, I drove across Nebraska. In Nebraska, under our
4 feet, is the sand and the plant root system that
5 anchors it. Underneath the land is the water, our
6 Nebraska ocean. The northern section of the Ogallala
7 Aquifer.

8 I am an Admiral in the Nebraska Navy, and
9 I wanted to check out my ocean. On my way, my
10 previous trip, I drove through our person-made forest
11 here, Nebraska's Halsey Forest, to Alliance then
12 Scott's Bluff.

13 In a global economy, one can be hard-
14 pressed to define national interest. Our Governor
15 Heineman heads up currently the National Governors
16 Association. Our lieutenant governor, Rick Sheehy,
17 which is S h e e h y, heads up the National
18 Lieutenant Governors Association.

19 In Nebraska we are but one of 50 states.
20 What is our national interest as seen through the
21 eyes of Nebraskans? Every word we have spoken this
22 evening has been recorded on a transcript by a court
23

1 reporter who has been trained and dedicated his life
2 to getting our words right.

3 I would like to get a copy of that
4 transcript. I understand you are here on a listening
5 session, and you have agreed to hear every word that
6 we say. And I would like to be able to read every
7 word that we say.

8 Is it permissible for me to ask you that
9 question of how we can get that transcript?

10 Let me ask you a question you can answer.
11 I did ask for your business cards, and you're out.
12 So that would be Stewart M -- and the next letter
13 before the @state.gov? You know your email address,
14 now, come on.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: My name is Teresa Hobgood;
16 that's t e r e s a h o b g o o d.

17 J. ROCK JOHNSON: And your email address,
18 ma'am?

19 MS. HOBGOOD: My email address; it's
20 hobgoodtd.

21 J. ROCK JOHNSON: I'm simply asking for
22 your email address.

23

1 I can't make it out, so it's t and then
2 there's another letter? Would you just please tell
3 me that letter; you said it but I didn't hear it.

4 MS. HOBGOOD: I understand that. If you
5 can just conclude your comments, I'd really
6 appreciate it.

7 J. ROCK JOHNSON: My comment is I do not
8 believe it is in the national interest of the United
9 States of America, nor the United States of America
10 as a citizen of this world, of this globe, for this
11 pipeline to go through, as we have learned about it
12 in terms of its original application and the Draft
13 Environmental Impact Statement and the Supplemental
14 Environmental Impact Statement.

15 My understanding is that we are currently
16 in a final comment period of which these public
17 hearings are a part. And we have until the 9th of
18 October; and I believe the phone number for the White
19 House was given; I wrote it down but of course I
20 wouldn't be able to find it right away. It's I
21 belive 202.456.1111. Does that sound right? Thank
22 you.

23

1 So if this is an ultimate decision by the
2 President of these United States, what is in our
3 global interest, our national interest, and the
4 interests of Nebraska. I believe we would do
5 something in addition to an environmental impact
6 statement.

7 I'm told by the folks at the front desk
8 that the environmental impact statement includes an
9 environmental justice section, and that section
10 includes the social impact. I should like to see a
11 separate, distinct, independent impact statement
12 called a social impact statement. I believe a good
13 part of what would be the content of a social impact
14 statement has been heard here tonight.

15 So I do not believe it is in the best
16 interest, and our best national interest to do
17 anything that could conceivably offer any risk of
18 harm. This is not about risk management; this is
19 about a unique geological formation.

20 I look forward to looking at the
21 environmental impact statement, the geological
22 information that's there, the hydrological
23

1 information that's there, and being able to receive a
2 copy of the transcript. Thank you.

3 If I may, fieldsurvey@earthlink.net And
4 I thank you all so much for coming here. I welcome
5 you to Nebraska, I hope you'll come back again and
6 spend more time in the Sand Hills.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: And thank you for your
8 comments.

9 (Applause)

10 That concludes the speaker's list, and I'd
11 like to just emphasize that all of the comments made
12 here will be transcribed. We thank you for coming
13 and expressing your views; and again I'd like to
14 stress that the Department of State has not made a
15 decision on the Keystone XL pipeline.

16 Again, thank you for coming. This
17 concludes our public meeting.

18 (Whereupon, at 11:10 p.m., the hearing
19 concluded.)

20

21